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WASHTENAW

JEWISH NEWS

December 2010/January 2011 Kislev/Tevet/Shevat 5771 Volume XXXV: Number 4 FREE

Martin Shichtman named director of EMU Jewish Studies

Geoff Larcom, special to the WJN

Martin Shichtman, a professor of English language and literature who has taught at Eastern Michigan University for 26 years, has been appointed director of Jewish Studies for the university.

As director, Shichtman will create alliances with EMU's Jewish community, coordinate EMU's Jewish Studies Lecture Series and develop curriculum. The area of Jewish studies includes classes for all EMU students interested in Jewish life and culture, as well as opportunities for study abroad and internships.

Shichtman, who began at EMU in 1984, has been an active figure in the academic life of the university. He has organized and participated in numerous EMU campus discussions and panels, including serving as a moderator for the Interfaith Panel, "Did God Survive the Holocaust," held in 2009. Last month, Shichtman was a panelist during a well-attended discussion on values, respect, and hate imagery, held after *The Eastern Echo* had published a controversial cartoon invoking the Ku Klux Klan.

"I am delighted to name Marty Shichtman head of Jewish studies at Eastern," said Jack Kay, EMU provost and executive vice president. "He is an exceptional, productive and creative scholar, and plays a vital and central role in campus affairs."

Martin Shichtman

"Most EMU students know very little about Judaism or about Jewish culture," Shichtman said. "Many are not aware of ever having met a Jew. It is becoming increasingly evident that comprehensive universities like EMU, institutions dedicated to promoting an understanding of American diversity, also need to provide their students with an awareness of Jewish life and culture."

Shichtman earned his doctorate and master's degree from the University of Iowa, and his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York, Binghamton. He has taught more than a dozen courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels at EMU, including classes on Chaucer, Arthurian literature, and Jewish American literature. Classes focusing on Jewish life include "Imagining the Holy Land," and "Culture and the Holocaust."

Shichtman has written four books. The latest, *Cinematic Illusions: The Middle Ages on Film*, co-authored with Laurie Finke, recently received EMU's annual Faculty Scholarship Recognition Award for best book by a faculty member.

He has held fellowships at The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and with Brandies University's Summer Institute for Israel Studies. In 2008, he was chosen as a Hillel International Summit Scholar.

Shichtman also received the EMU Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching in 1996, and the EMU Alumni Association Award for Teaching Excellence in 1993. In 1990, he received a State of Michigan Teaching Excellence Award. ■

Author who saved Yiddish literature to speak December 7

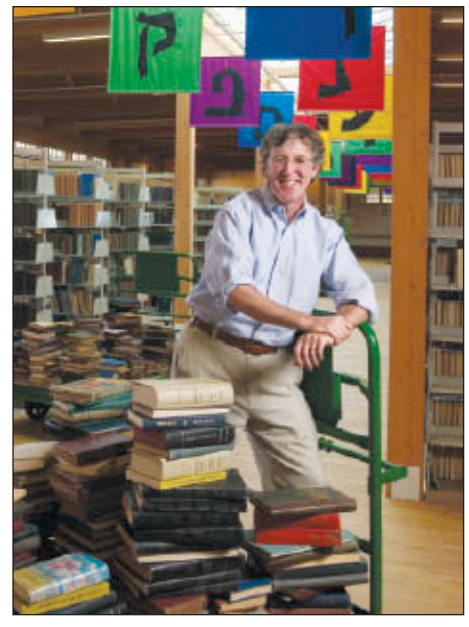
Geoff Larcom, special to the WJN

In 1980, while a 24-year-old graduate student, Aaron Lansky decided to save the world's Yiddish books.

Driving dented, old trucks and wearing sweatshirts and faded jeans, Lansky and his colleagues traveled the country as they began rescuing unwanted and abandoned Yiddish books. They were not the most impressive group. Yet whether out of hope or desperation, people trusted the young students with their "*yerushe*," their inheritance, their books and stories.

"It was a huge and sometimes overwhelming responsibility," Lansky writes now. "How could we take care of so many books, remember so many stories, preserve so much history?"

Yet he succeeded. Lansky and his colleagues collected more than one and a half million volumes—many, he recalls, at the last minute from attics, basements, demolition sites and dumpsters. The effort has been described as "the greatest cultural rescue effort in Jewish history," fueling the renaissance of Jewish literature in America.



Aaron Lansky

Today, the organization Lansky founded, the National Yiddish Book Center, located in Amherst, Massachusetts, has 35,000 members, making it one of the largest Jewish cultural organizations in the United States. Thanks to efforts by the center to digitize these texts, Yiddish, once in danger of extinction, is the most accessible literature on Earth.

Lansky will bring his remarkable story to Eastern Michigan University on Tuesday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium. His talk, entitled "Gevalt!: The Last-Minute Rescue of Modern Jewish Culture," is free and open to the public.

Lansky will discuss the story detailed in his 2004 book, entitled *Outwitting History. The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books.*

continued on page 2

Chanukah Wonderland at Briarwood Mall

Devorah Goldstein, special to the WJN

What is white, green, blue and eight feet tall? —the menorah to be built at Chanukah Wonderland this year. Chabad of Ann Arbor will sponsor its fourth annual Chanukah Wonderland, returning to the Sears wing of Briarwood Mall, November 29–December 6, noon–7 p.m. New for Chanukkah 2010 will be the building of a giant Lego menorah in the children's play area (near JCPenny). There will be a public menorah lighting at the Chanukah Wonderland each evening at 5:30 p.m.

Chanukah Wonderland provides a Jewish experience for people of all ages. Activities will include dressing up for photos as Judah the Maccabee, dipping Chanukah candles, and making potato latkes and sufganiyot, traditional jelly-filled doughnuts. Several arts and crafts kiosks will offer projects to fill participants' homes with the joy of Chanukah. There will also be an olive oil press, demonstrating the significance of olive oil in the Chanukah miracle. A Chanukah giftshop will offer Chanukah items and gifts, from menorahs to Jewish "silly bands."

Chanukah Wonderland is open as a field trip destination for schools, synagogue groups, and homeschoolers. Admission is $3. For more information on group programs, contact Shternie at 995-327 or www.jewmich.com.

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Letter/Community

Agreement with Brysk's November op ed

I fully concur with all particulars—international, national and especially local—cited in Henry Brysk's recent *Washtenaw Jewish News* op ed on contemporary anti-Semitism [November 2010] which, as he notes, should be at least as concerning as the "islamophobia" worries expressed in the "J.Street students" editorial [WJN, October 2010] Brysk tellingly dissects.

I would add that a random perusal of WJN's counterpart in Dearborn, *The Arab American News*, would reveal regular contributions by Ann Arbors synagogue harassers (and worse) that hardly mirror the ecumenical sentiments expressed in the "kumbaya-esque" Islamophobia piece Brysk rightly takes to task.

Likewise, anti-Israel activist George Garcia—the leader of a rehearsed flamboyant walkout on a University of Michigan campus event hosted by a pro-Israel student group—was recently given a forum at the local Unitarian church. Henry Herskovitz (on a recent annarbor.com thread by the self-congratulatory Garcia) notes that this event made the several Jews in the audience (i.e. mostly him and his synagogue stalking cronies!) feel "welcome."

Big surprise. And another sad local reminder (if such was needed) that Brysk was right on target.

Stephen Pastner

Chanukah Latke Hop, family celebration at the JCC

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Latke Hop, a family Chanukah celebration, will take place at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor on Saturday, December 4, 5:30–9 p.m. The new feature film from the Shalom Sesame series, *Chanukah: The Missing Menorah,* will be shown. In the film, Grover is bringing the latkes and all is well until Anneliese gets caught in a game of tag with a chicken and loses her special menorah. Can they find the missing menorah in time to celebrate Chanukah?

Candle lighting, dinner, and music are part of the Chanukah celebration. Tickets for JCC members are $12 for adults and $5 for children ages 2 and up. Tickets for non-members are $14 for adults and $6 for children ages 2 and up. For more information or to RSVP, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

Rosh Chodesh services at the JCC

Lisa P. Bernstein, special to the WJN

Everyone is invited to community egalitarian services for Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of the Jewish month, on January 6, at 9:30 a.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. Lisa Bernstein is organizing the services in solidarity with Women of the Wall. Women of the Wallâ€™s central mission is to achieve the social and legal recognition of the right of women to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall. For more information, go to http://womenofthewall.org.il/. The JCC is providing a space to meet, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah the use of their Torah scroll, and Beth Israel Congregation kippot, tallitot, and siddurim. RSVP by e-mail to lisapbernstein@comcast.net so that organizers can be assured of a minyan.

Yiddish Literature, continued from page 1

"It tells the story of how a small group of young people saved Yiddish books from extinction," Lansky writes in the foreword. "It's also the story of Yiddish-speaking immigrants who owned and read those books – how they sat down with us at their kitchen tables, plied us with tea and cakes, and handed us their personal libraries, one volume at a time. The encounters were almost always emotional: People cried and poured out their hearts, often with a candor that surprised us all."

"In a world grown increasingly apathetic, Aaron Lansky's story vividly demonstrates that one person can make a world-changing difference," said Martin Shichtman, director of EMU Jewish Studies. "It is a breathtaking story of perseverance and dedication, a story of determination.

"The Talmud tells us that 'Whoever saves one life saves the world entire.' In his recovery of Yiddish books and documents, Lansky has not only saved an important part of Jewish history and literature, he has saved a vital portion of Western civilization."

The event is sponsored by EMU Jewish Studies, EMU Academic Affairs, the EMU College of Arts and Sciences and Hillel at EMU. The talk is part of a series of a three-lecture series sponsored by EMU Jewish Studies. Talks next semester will feature local novelist Sharon Pomerantz and novelist and humorist Jonathan Tropper.

A book signing will follow Lansky's presentation. ■

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

2935 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
voice: 734/971-1800
fax: 734/971-1801
e-mail: WJN.editor@gmail.com
www.washtenawjewishnews.org

Editor and Publisher
Susan Kravitz Ayer

Calendar Editor
Claire Sandler

Advertising Manager
Gordon White

Design and Layout
Dennis Platte

Staff Writer
Sandor Slomovits

Contributing Writers
Halye Aisner, Jennifer Arapoff, Lisa Bernstein, Jennifer Cohen, Rabbi Lisa Delson, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Julie Ellis, Sue Fishkoff, Eileen Freed, Michele Freed, Julie Gales, Devorah Goldstein, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Ruth Ellen Gruber, Uriel Heilman, Heather Higdon, Deborah Hirsch, Peretz Hirshbein, Heather Hoberman, Deborah Huerta, Ron Kampeas, Clare Kinberg, Dina Kraft, Avram Kruger, Geoff Larcom, Joan Levitt, Mark Mietkiewicz, Linda Morel, Marcy Oster, Stephen Pastner, Merrill Poliner, Dina Shtull, Elliot Sorkin, Leslie Susser

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The deadline for the February issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News*, is Friday, January 7.
Publication date: Friday, January 28
Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

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Party Planning Expo at the JCC

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will hold its first Party Planning Expo on Sunday, January 30, from 2–5 p.m. at the JCC. The JCC will open its doors to those in the community who will be having bar/bat-mitzvahs, weddings, graduations, or any other special event. The event is free to the community.

Special event vendors such as florists, balloon artists, event planners, caterers, photographers, decorators, and entertainment companies are invited to participate and purchase a booth at the Expo. The cost for a booth is $36 per table.

Carolynn Hayman, one of the expo's organizers, had this idea as she was planning her daughter's bat mitzvah last year. It was a big event with about 100 people joining in the weekend festivities. As members of Temple Beth Emeth, Hayman had attended a few parent meetings about planning a bat mitzvah. At one of the meetings they discussed planning a larger size party. They ended up having a mini-vendor fair which was a one-stop shop for party planning. Hayman was so pleased with the event, she wanted to bring something similar to the Jewish community-at-large.

Staci Kennedy, owner of Who's Got the Time event planning business is also chairing the event. "Who's Got The Time?" attends to the individual needs of busy families and professionals. They specialize in the time-consuming areas of researching, organizing, and planning events.

For more information or to participate as a vendor, contact Mimi Weisberg at 971-0990 or mimiweisberg@jccfed.org. ■

Chaverim B'Shirim to perform music from Harold Rome's I Can Get It For You Wholesale

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Chaverim B'Shirim, Ann Arbor's own all-volunteer choir, will have the room swaying and the band playing as they perform music from Harold Rome's *I Can Get It For You Wholesale* at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor on Sunday, December 5 at 3 p.m. In the past, Chaverim B'Shirim wowed the audience with selected songs from Rome's popular Broadway musicals, *Pins and Needles* and *Call Me Mister.*

I Can Get It for You Wholesale is a musical with music and lyrics by Harold Rome and a book by Jerome Weidman based on his 1937 novel of the same title. It marked the Broadway debut of 19-year-old Barbra Streisand, who was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical. The story is set in the New York City garment district in 1937 during the Great Depression, and the songs utilize traditional Jewish harmonies evocative of the setting and the period of the show.

The musical premiered on Broadway at the Shubert Theatre on March 22, 1962. Directed by Arthur Laurents and choreographed by Herbert Ross, it starred Elliot Gould as Harry Bogen. In addition to Streisand in the small role of Bogen's secretary, Miss Marmelstein, the supporting cast included Lillian Roth as Mrs. Bogen and Marilyn Cooper as Ruthie Rivkin, with Harold Lang, Bambi Linn, Ken LeRoy, and Sheree North. On October 1, it transferred to The Broadway Theatre, where it closed on December 9 after a total run of two previews and 300 performances.

Tickets are $5 and refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

ECC, HDS team up for intergenerational Chanukah party

Peretz Hirschbein, special to the WJN

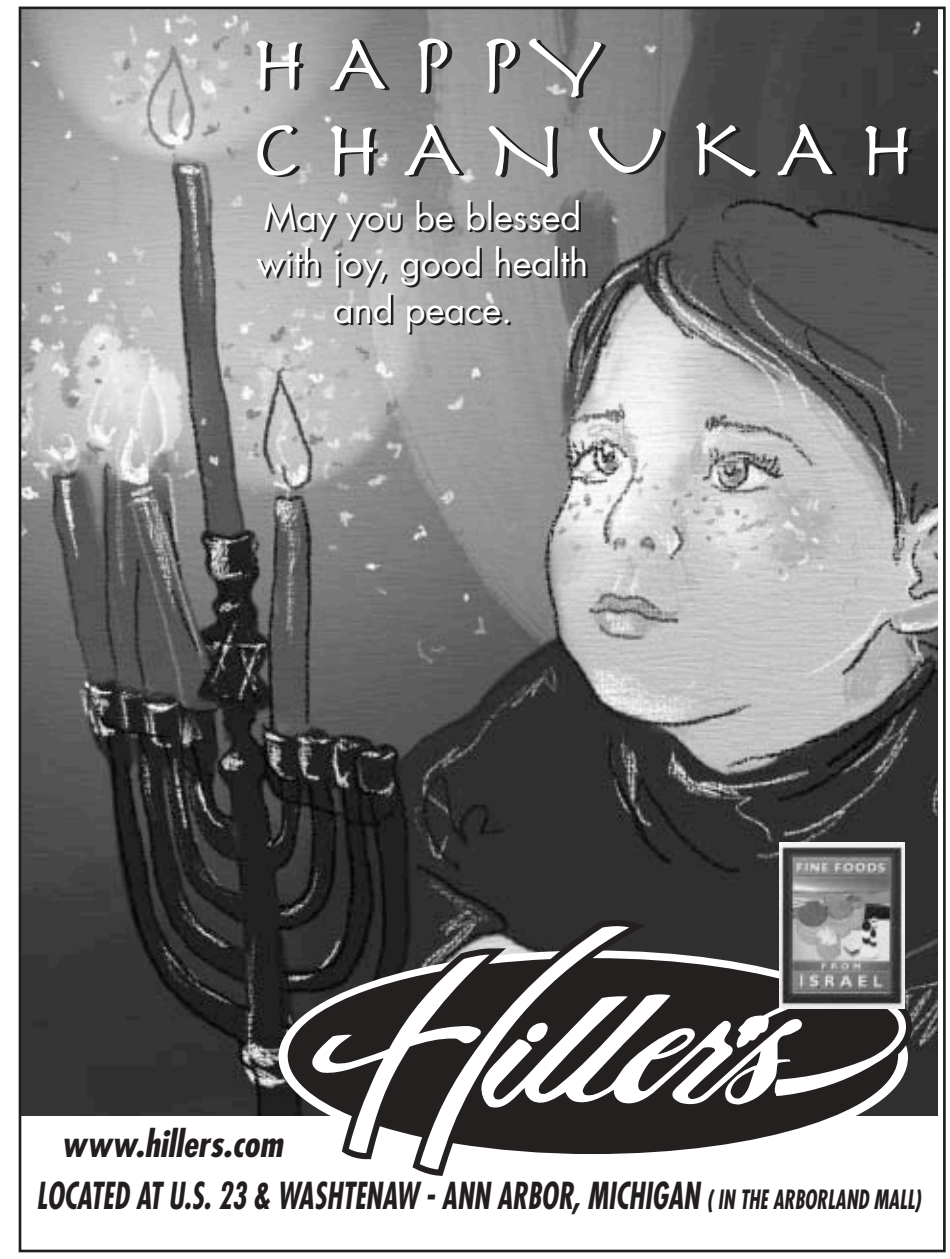
Parents, grandparents, and SPICE participants are invited to the JCC's Annual Intergenerational Chanukah party, to be held on Tuesday, December 7, from 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. This year Hebrew Day School and ECC classes will be partnering to make the celebration even more special. The idea to partner for a joint celebration came from a Chanukah party last year that was the result of a partnership between the ECC's Kangaroo room and HDS' Kitah Bet.

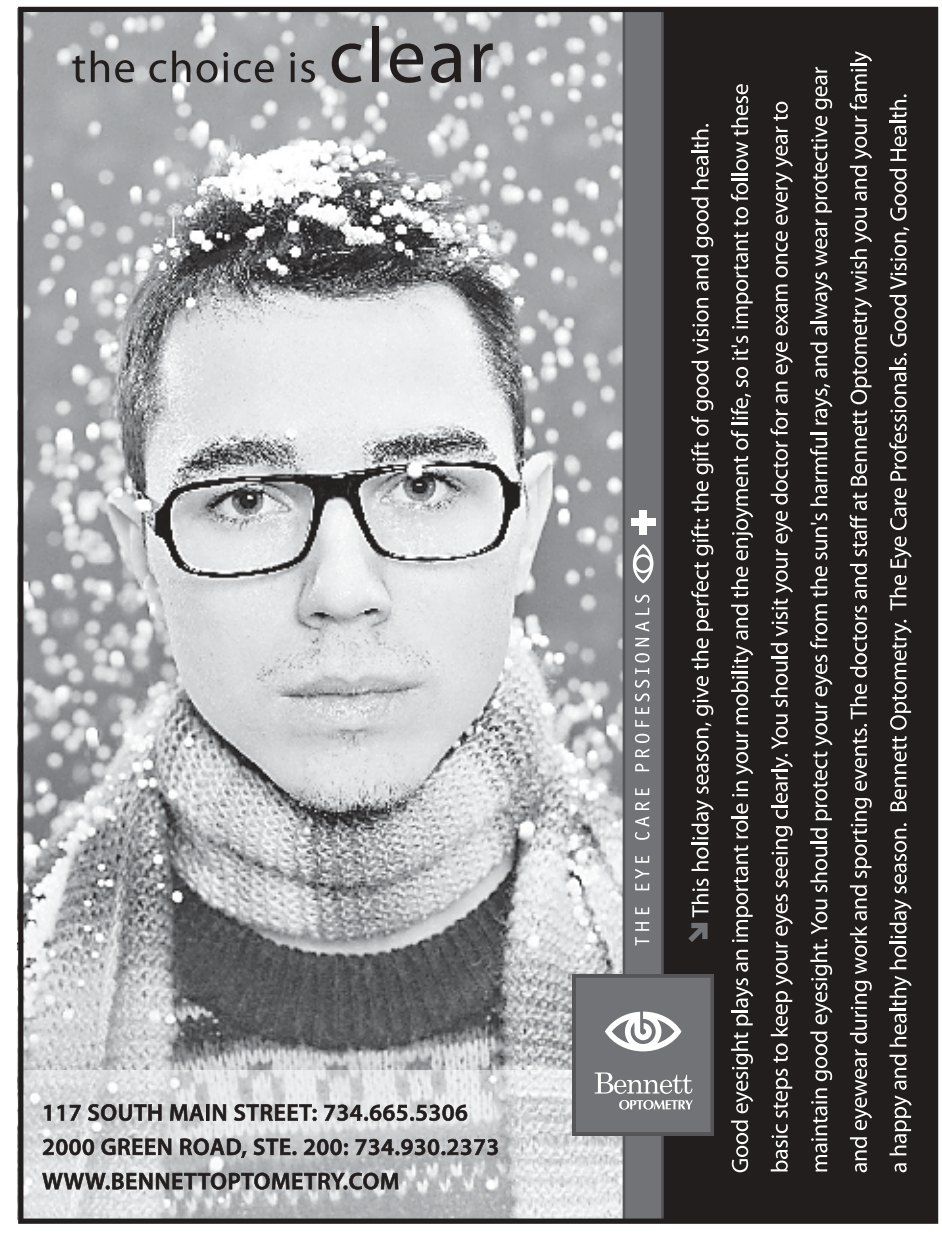
HDS 2nd graders and ECC Kangaroos enjoyed sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) at last year's party

Part one of the party will kick off at 10 a.m. in the Early Childhood Center with Chanukah parties in each classroom. HDS classes will pair up with an ECC class to plan and carry out their celebrations. Parents, grandparents, and SPICE participants will be able to visit the classrooms for games, latkes, and more. Each classroom party will be different, with differences in the latke recipes and other Chanukah treats.

At 11:30 a.m., after the individual classroom parties the celebration will move into the JCC lounges for a Chanukah sing-along and dancing. Finally, at noon guests will be invited to join the children in the gym for more latkes and lunch.

For more information, contact the Jewish Community Center at 971-0990.





SPICE* of Life

***Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults**

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

December and January

Tuesdays

11 a.m. – *Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar.* $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10

Noon – *Dairy Lunch Buffet.* $3 per person

1 p.m. – *Games and Activities.* Join in for a variety of games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and other card games.

1 p.m.– ***Wii sports*** including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No sports or computer experience necessary.

1:30 p.m. – *Yidish Tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group). Open to the public as well as University of Michigan faculty, staff and students, all ages and levels welcome. Beanster's Café, ground floor, Michigan League. Free. For more information, call 936-2367.

Wednesdays

9:30–11:30 a.m.: Beginning January 5, Washtenaw Community College Community Education Program and the Jewish Community Center will present another ***Music Appreciation Class with Nate Adam,*** "French Music of the Romantic Era." Free to all Washtenaw County residents 65 and over. Register at 971-0990 or at the first class session.

Thursdays

10 a.m. – *Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar.* $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10

11 a.m. – *Current Events with Heather Dombey.* A discussion of this week's news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.

Noon – *Dairy Lunch Buffet.* $3 per person

1 p.m. – *Special Events and Presentations* (see box for details)

2:15 p.m. – *Literary Group* facilitated by Sidney Warschausky, Call Merrill Poliner, 971-0990, for more information and the current book.

Fridays

1:30 p.m.– *Yiddish Reading Group* at the JCC. Call Ray Juni for additional information at 761-2765

Special events and presentations

Thursday, December 2

12:30 p.m. Birthday celebration for all with December birthdays. Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.

1 p.m. A representative from the Social Security Administration will present information and answer questions about Social Security and Medicare. Bring questions.

Tuesday, December 7

11 p.m.: Join the children, staff and families of the Early Childhood Center of the JCC for an intergenerational Hanukah celebration including crafts, songs and food.

Thursday, December 9

12:30 p.m.: A nurse from Care Response will monitor blood pressures. FREE.

1 p.m. Cheryl Bord, Certified Nurse Practitioner with the Women's Heart Program at the University of Michigan Hospital and Health System will speak about "The Highs and Lows of Hypertension."

Thursday, December 16

12:30 p.m. Meet the Social Worker. Allison Pollock, JFS geriatric social worker, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance.

1 p.m: ***Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*** is the humorous and eye-opening story of television pioneer Gertrude Berg who was the creator, principal writer, and star of The Goldbergs, a popular radio show for 17 years, which became television's very first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949.

Thursday, December 23

1 p.m.: Come to SPICE to enjoy an hour of wisdom and humor with Rabbi Robert Levy of Temple Beth Emeth.

Thursday, December 30

1 p.m.: A New Year's Eve celebration with entertainment by a local musician.

Thursday, January 6

12:30 p.m. Birthday celebration for all with January birthdays. Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake. 1 p.m. "A History of the News Media" presented by Stephanie Murray of annarbor.com.

Thursday, January 13

12:30 p.m.: A nurse from Care Response will monitor blood pressures. FREE.

1 p.m. The Happiness Boys return to the JCC with their own version of Tin Pan Alley.

Thursday, January 20

12:30 p.m. Meet the Social Worker. Allison Pollock, JFS geriatric social worker, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance.

1 p.m: Celebrate Tu B'Shevat, "The New Year for Trees," with a seder facilitated by Julie Gales.

Thursday, January 27

1 p.m.: Commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day with a program at the JCC.

JFS board member receives community leadership award

Jennifer Arapoff, special to the WJN

Dr. Marjorie Sobelman Checkoway, a graduate of Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, and a past president and current Jewish Family Services board member, has been awarded the Simmons Alumnae Association Community Service Award. The award recognizes an alumna who has made significant volunteer contributions to the world around her, and who has undertaken unique and innovative approaches to solving community issues and bettering the world.

Checkoway, a professor of education at Madonna University, also serves as the director of educational leadership in the master's program. She was instrumental in securing four National Endowment for the Humanities grants focusing on diversity, and in broadening the faculty's perspective on issues of diversity.

Checkoway has volunteered for more than 10 years at JFS, helping improve the quality of lives for many deserving members of the Ann Arbor community. As the JFS president for six years and as a board member, she has focused on the agency's strategic development to build and enhance the organization's volunteer and funding base. She has been defined as a true leader who led the growth of the agency's independence and evolution into a multi-service non-profit organization. Checkoway has shared her incredible expertise in education, administration, and fund development with JFS to meet the growing needs of a diverse community. ■

Dr. Marjorie Checkoway

ORT Chanukah party on December 5

Joan Levitt, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor chapter of ORT America will hold its 2010 "Chai'nukah" party on Sunday, December 5, from 2–4 p.m., in the Community Room at Nature Cove Condominiums, 2115 Nature Cove Court.

The party will feature Chanukah music, a book exchange, and refreshments, including latkes. The highlight of the afternoon will be a talk by Dr. Karla Goldman on the changing role of women in American Judaism. Dr. Goldman is the Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work and the director of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan.

Guests should bring a gently used and wrapped book for a book exchange. All attendees are asked to make an $18 donation ("chai") to ORT America.

Rides to the Chai'nukah party are available to those who need them. For more information or to RSVP, contact Fran Martin at maizenblue@comcast.net.

Brenda Riemer lights candles at the 2009 party

Hadassah Game Night set for February 2

Julie Ellis, special to the WJN

Hadassah Game Night will take place on Wednesday, February 2, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. This event is open to all Jewish women in the community for a $5 entry fee. There will be games of mah jongg, bridge, scrabble, bananagrams, and more, plus dessert and beverages. RSVP to Julie Ellis at 665-0439 or juliergellis@yahoo.com.

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Federation Main Event held October 12

Avram Kruger, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor held its 10th Annual Main Event on October 12, 2010. Over 500 community members gathered at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center for the event. The evening's hosts were Nancy and Phil Margolis, and Stefanie and Herb Aronow. Hillary Murt and Bruce Friedman hosted the Preglow dinner.

The Main Event featured an extensive program showcasing various facets of the Ann Arbor Jewish community. "The Spirit of Federation" Award was given to Laurence Smith for his many years of service to the community. Maestro Arie Lipsky of the Ann Arbor Symphony performed a hauntingly beautiful solo musical tribute to slain journalist Daniel Pearl. Daniel's father, Dr. Judea Pearl, was the keynote speaker for this year's Main Event. He spoke about "Being Jewish, American and Western in the 21st Century."

The dinner and dessert reception was catered by Simply Scrumptious Catering. The evening was once again sponsored by the Ford Motor Company Fund. ■

1. Federation Past-Presidents Hillary Murt, Malcolm Cohen, Joan Lowenstein, Ed Schteimgart, Evie Lichter, Larry Smith, and Susan Fisher, and current Federation President Ed Goldman
2. Lori Shepard, John Waidley, Arthur Schuman, and Barry Gross
3. Maestro Arie Lipsky performed on cello
4. Martin Zimmerman (left) with representatives from Ford Motor Company
5. Susan Fisher presented the award to Larry Smith
6. Dr. Pearl signed copies of his book following the program

PHOTOS BY SUSAN K. AYER

Temple Beth Emeth

Celebrate Chanukah

Friday, December 3

6 pm Latke Dinner (with home-made latkes)

$10 adults, $5 children 12 and under

RSVP to the office, 665-4744 or reserve on the website.

7:30 pm Chanukah Family Service

(Bring your menorah and candles)

What are you doing December 25?

Chinese Dinner and a Movie!

4 pm Dinner at Dynasty Buffet on Washtenaw

6 pm Movie of your choice at
Rave Movies on Carpenter

Details of all events at
www.templebethemeth.org

Ann Arbor cyclists experience Israel on two wheels

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

For ten days, November 5–14, 20 members of the Ann Arbor Jewish community embarked on a different kind of trip to Israel—a bike adventure focused on Northern Israel, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Trip coordinators Rabbi Bob Levy and Eileen Freed engaged the services of Ecobike Cycling Vacations, which specializes in bike tours in Israel and the Mediterranean, and its founder, Amir Rockman, to create a meaningful experience for the riders.

The trip began at Moshav Nahalal, Ann Arbor's Partnership 2000 sister community, where the riders enjoyed home hospitality, a tree-planting ceremony, and a ride around the fields and environs of the Jezreel valley. Other highlights of the trip included a visit to the Hand-in-Hand Galil School, biking around the Kinneret, soaking in the hot springs of Hamat Gader, and experiencing Tel Aviv and Jerusalem by bike.

Riders start out on their adventure in the Galilee

The small group and unique nature of the tour provided many opportunities to make meaningful connections with Israelis by staying with families at Moshav Nahalal, interacting with community members at Hoshaya, and biking in Jerusalem with members of the Tandem Bike Team of Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind.

Touring Israel by bicycle offered participants a chance to be a part of the landscape, rather than seeing the scenery through the windows of a car or bus. Riding from Beit Shemesh up to Jerusalem gave riders a whole new understanding of the meaning of *aliyah* (going up). It was truly an experience to remember.

To see more photos of the trip, visit the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor fan page on Facebook. ■

Ann Arbor riders and members of Nahalal at the Pioneer Museum at Kibbutz Yifat

Carolyn Grawi, Cathy Bowerman, Lauren Metzendorf, Hillary Murt, Debbie Merion, Eileen Freed and Barb Reed after the final climb to Mount Herzl

Susan Fisher finishes her climb

Jewish Family Services hosts International Lunch

Jennifer Arapoff, special to WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County held its ESL (English as a Second Language) International Lunch in November, a tradition that began in 2001. The event featured homemade dishes prepared by the agency's ESL students, representing Iraq, Somalia, Russia, India, China and Argentina. JFS staff and board members contributed a diverse assortment of dishes as well. Many of the students are political refugees or émigrés whose personal stories of survival are both emotional and compelling.

One ESL student came to America as a refugee from Iraq, where he was a wealthy business owner. He had been captured, tortured, and held hostage until his wife gathered their life savings to get him freed. They fled to Michigan and found their way to JFS, where they learned English and received assistance finding healthcare and employment. The gentleman recently took his family to Disneyworld, in what they considered a celebration of the American dream.

"This year's International Lunch was the largest and most successful yet," says Barbara Shreier, a long-time JFS volunteer and ESL instructor, who came up with the idea 10 years ago. "We invited members of the press, leadership from other area agencies, local politicians, and of course, many of our devoted volunteers. The event is an excellent way to showcase the work that JFS does, while allowing our students to celebrate their successes and share their culture with other members of the class and the community."

PHOTO CREDIT: YILIN XIUJUN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is the premier agency providing immigration and refugee services in the county. Services include helping people establish new homes, prepare for citizenship, learn English, seek employment, secure government documents, and adapt to American culture and life.

Volunteer opportunities are available, and services are delivered in the spirit of Jewish values and traditions that emphasize social justice and "repairing the world." ■

Award-winning producer and story consultant to speak at Jewish Cultural Society

Julie Gales, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor-based film producer and media consultant, Harvey Ovshinsky will speak at a Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) Sunday Schmooze with a program titled "Today I am an Erasure and Other Lessons Learned from Jewish Writers," on December 19, 10 a.m.–noon.Ovshinsky will focus on the profound influence Jewish writers, from Isaac Bashevis Singer to Rod Serling, have had on his career as a writer, producer, and educator.

Harvey Ovshinsky

"I've always been attracted to stories that blend the reality of life's struggles with the possibility of magical solutions," says Ovshinsky. "Which is one reason why I've always been fascinated with golems. And not just me. Isn't that why Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster created Superman?"

The Detroit News has described Ovshinsky as "one of this country's finest storytellers." This moniker is well deserved as Harvey and his production company, HKO Media, have been awarded broadcasting's highest honors, including a national Emmy, a Peabody, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, and the American Film Institute's Robert M. Bennett Award for Excellence.

Ovshinsky's film about Franklin artist Arthur Schneider was honored at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival. HKO Media has produced videos for the Jewish Vocational Society, the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, and the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County.

Recently, Ovshinsky brought his popular support group for aspiring screenwriters, "How to Complete Your First Movie Script in Six Months" to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.

In 2004, the Detroit Docs International Film Festival celebrated Harvey Ovshinsky's life and work with its first ever Career Achievement Award. "From his early days of radio to later years of television and now documentary film and video, Ovshinsky's career is a colorful and fantastic voyage, at times brave and visionary," wrote the *Metro Times*' Kerry Burke at the time.

The JCS Sunday Schmooze program brings in local experts to present a topic and create a true discussion among participants. "The Ann Arbor Jewish community is fortunate to have such a talented and experienced resource in Harvey to help us explore how Jewish culture affects our choices," said Adam Liebowitz, JCS president. "Harvey is an engaging speaker and we are very excited to bring him to the JCS for a Schmooze."

The entire community is invited to attend this celebration of lessons learned from Jewish writers. The presentation will take place from 10 a.m.–noon at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. ■

JCS programming in December and January

Heather Higdon, special to the WJN

The Jewish Cultural Society's Community Chanukah Celebration will take place on Sunday, December 5, 10 a.m.–noon at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The morning will include activities for everyone, including a Moon Bounce, menorah construction, singing, dancing, candle-making, arts and crafts, and latkes to eat.

The Jewish Cultural Society's annual Tu B'Shevat celebration will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2011, 10 a.m.–noon, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, (1800 N. Dixboro Road). Everyone in the community is welcome to join in celebrating trees, wildlife, and the environment. Local environmental groups Natural Areas Preservation and the Michigan Bluebird Society will be present, offering education on how one can support conservation and sustainability in their community. There will be an eco-themed scavenger hunt for children and activities for the whole family.

Admission for both the Chanukah and Tu Bí-Shevat celebrations is free. For more information, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org.

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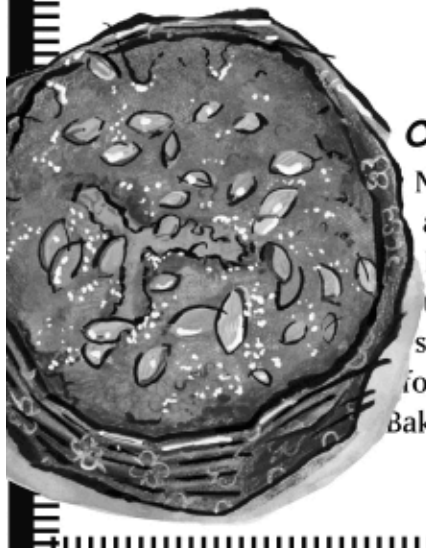
Here are some of our favorite things for holiday feasting or gift-giving with food-loving family and friends.



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Activities at Beth Israel Congregation in December and January

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Interfaith Perspectives Series

Friday, December 10, 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat service, 8:15 p.m. speaker and refreshments . Pastor Sue Sprowls from the Lord of Light/Lutheran Campus Ministry will be the second speaker in this new series taking place on selected Friday nights. The series features issues of faith, and the role of various congregations in Washtenaw County. Her presentation is titled "Journey into Judaism: How a Midwestern WASP came to treasure the gifts the Jewish faith." Pastor Sprowls will recount her experiences during her college and seminary years in which she became more familiar with Judaism and Jewish ritual and discuss how those experiences have influenced her own faith and her priorities in the ministry. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion following the presentation.

Pastor Sprowls received her bachelor of arts degree in Religious Studies from Occidental College, Los Angeles in 1985. Raised in the Presbyterian Church USA, as a young adult, she was active in the Episcopal Church before finding her spiritual home in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America while working for Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. Pastor Sprowls attended Yale Divinity School from which she earned her M.Div. (summa cum laude) in 1995. In 1997, she was granted one of the first diplomas in Lutheran Studies by Berkeley (Episcopal) Divinity School at Yale. Pastor Sprowls served as associate pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church, Phoenix, from 1998 until 2005. Since 2005, she has served as pastor of Lord of Light/Lutheran Campus Ministry in Ann Arbor.

Favorite Torah lessons

Monday, January 24, 8 p.m.

"The People of Israel will Keep the Sabbath"

What does it mean to be "*shomer* Shabbat", to "keep or observe" the Shabbat? And what does Moses' smile have to do with the entire subject? Join us for the third in a series of special evenings as Rabbi Dobrusin shares his five favorite original Torah lessons. Coffee, tea and desserts are served.

Friday Night Lights

Friday, January 28, 7 p.m.

On selected Friday nights, Beth Israel offers a family friendly Shabbat dairy dinner for $7 per person, with no charge for children 3 and under. Families and individuals are encouraged to attend the full evening, which includes a service at 6 p.m., and all the traditional rituals of the Friday night meal. Because no payments can be accepted on Shabbat, there must be a pre-payment which will confirm the family's or individual's reservation.

Monday Night Talmud study

December 13 and January 10

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin leads a study class at 8 p.m. on selected Monday evenings. Texts are in Hebrew and English translation. There is no fee

Junior Congregation/Moadon and Kehillat Shabbat on Saturdays

Junior Congregation provides a Shabbat morning program for kids in 1st–5th grade. It begins at 10 a.m. with Moadon, an opportunity for kids to hang out and play games led by our high school Madrichim. At 11 a.m. there is a Shabbat service for children that offers a mixture of teaching and prayer, and a chance for the kids to lead their own service. Junior Congregation will meet on Saturdays, December 4, 11, and 18; and January 8, 15, 22, and 29.

The innovative "Kehillat Shabbat" provides an enriched educational program and service for first through 5th graders exploring themes from the Torah portion and Jewish teaching. Kehillat Shabbat is facilitated by Gabe Pachter and meets on Saturdays, December 11 and January 8.

Wednesday Lunch and Learn

December 1, 8, and 15

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin and Rabbi Kim Blumenthal lead Wednesday Lunch and Learn sessions from noon–1:15 p.m. on a wide range of topics. Participants are asked to bring a dairy lunch with refreshments and desserts being provided free of charge by the congregation. Check the Beth Israel Website (www.bethisrael-aa.org) for the weekly topics.

Sweatshirt Shabbat with Cholent Kiddush

Saturday, December 18

This Shabbat service will start at 9:30 a.m. with the kiddush following at noon. Participants may wear their favorite sweatshirt from camp, college, or travel while spending the morning comfortable in fleece. The reception following will feature a cholent sit-down kiddush with an internationally influenced array of hot and hearty cholents plus other foods, prepared by Beth Israel members and Karan Balmer, the Beth Israel Kitchen Coordinator. This year's kiddush will be in honor Nikki Klein for her eight years of service to Beth Israel as kitchen coordinator. She now works for the University of Michigan. There is no charge for lunch.

Beth Israel Café

Sunday, January 23

On Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m.–noon men and women are invited to come into the large social hall for a few minutes or the entire morning for free coffee and bagels. They may use their lap tops, (the entire synagogue is wireless) socialize, or read. The cafe is planned and sponsored by the Beth Israel Women's League.

Latkepalooza

Sunday, December 5, 5 p.m.

Latkepalooza is a Chanukah celebration extravaganza for all ages, including a delicious latke bar for dinner, a community candle lighting ceremony, games, crafts and other fun activities.

There is a charge and reservations are required. Contact programs@bethisrael-aa.org or call 769-1651.

Tot Chanukah dinner

Wednesday, December 8, 5:30 p.m.

Children kindergarten age and younger and their parents are invited to celebrate the 6th night of Chanukah with a delicious latke dinner and dreidel games. There will also be arts and crafts, songs and stories to celebrate the holiday. Families are asked to bring a *hanukkiah* from their home for the candle lighting ceremony. Reservations are required, and there is a charge.

Saturday Morning Tot Shabbat

December 11 and 25, January 8 and 22.

Tot Shabbat is held at 11:15 a.m. the second and fourth Saturday of most months for children through kindergarten and their families. Tot Shabbat is led on alternating weeks by Peretz Hirshbein and Jessica Kander, and features songs and stories in a special Shabbat celebration for the youngest members of our community. Tot Shabbat concludes with grape juice and challah and the saying of kiddush and hamotzi. Afterwards, the families are encouraged to join the regular kiddush reception upstairs at a special tots table. There is no charge for this program.

Peretz Hirshbein is the Early Childhood assistant director at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the current vice president for education on the Beth Israel board of direc tors. Jessica De Young Kander is a graduate of the School of Education at the University of Michigan and former preschool teacher. She currently teaches at Eastern Michigan University where she is completing a master's degree in children's literature and a certificate in the Teaching of Writing.

Saturday Mini Minyan

December 11 and January 8

Mini minyan is held at 11 a.m. and is led by Program Director Jake Kander, and a team of parent volunteers It is offered on the second Saturday morning of each month to children in kindergarten–second grades. It serves as a bridge between Tot Shabbat which is aimed at preschool children and their parents and Kehillat Shabbat which is intended for third–fifth graders. Mini Minyan features many of the same songs and stories enjoyed during Tot Shabbat, while also offering the chance for children to learn and explore many of the Shabbat morning prayers through age appropriate activities.

Quiz Night

January 22, 7 p.m.

At Beth Israel's fourth annual Quiz Night people will compete in teams for prizes and to earn the coveted title of Quiz Night Champions. The competition includes multimedia trivia challenges (on mostly secular topics), written puzzles, and friendly rivalries. There will be a dessert break midway through the competition. The cost is $10 for adults and $5 for high school students.

Adult Hebrew classes at Beth Israel

Winter Term Starting Dates:

Monday, January 10:

7 p.m. Conversational Hebrew 4

8 p.m. Conversational Hebrew 5

Tuesday, January 11:

2 p.m. Reading Biblical Hebrew 2

4:30 p.m. Reading Biblical Hebrew 1

7 p.m. Reading Biblical Hebrew 3

Wednesday, January 12:

7 p.m. Conversational Hebrew 1

Thursday, January 13:

7 p.m. Conversational Hebrew 2

8 p.m. Conversational Hebrew 3

Beth Israel Congregation is offering 12-week Adult Hebrew classes this winter beginning the week of January 10, with various levels of difficulty. New students are asked to meet with the instructor to determine the best class for their backgrounds. There are five levels of Conversational Hebrew and 3 levels of Biblical Hebrew. Contact Mary at Beth Israel to receive the full brochure mary@bethisrael-aa.org, or call 665-9897. Anyone in the community is welcome to join these classes. There is a tuition fee.

The classes are taught by two veteran Hebrew instructors, Malli Holoshitz and Pauli Weizman. Holoshitz is a native Israeli who has taught Hebrew for many years; she is noted for her lively and animated teaching style. She earned a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Michigan, and teaches at the Frankel Jewish Academy of Metro Detroit. Holoshitz also teaches at the School of Education at Eastern Michigan University, as well as at the University of Michigan.

Weizman has been teaching Hebrew at the University of Michigan since 1987, and is the proud recipient of an "Excellence in Education" award by the Department of Near Eastern Studies. She is a native Israeli and has earned two master's degrees, one in Teaching English as a Second Language and the other in social work; she also has a bachelor's degree in Hebrew linguistics.

Homeless Shelter volunteers needed

December 20–January 3

Beth Israel Congregation will again participate in the Ann Arbor Shelter Association of Washtenaw County's rotating shelter program. Beth Israel hosts up to 25 overflow guests (each night) from the main shelter on 312 West Huron. Three or four volunteers are needed each night, and two or three drivers are needed each morning and evening to drive the guests to and from Beth Israel. The men permitted to participate in the program are free of serious substance or psychological issues. Online signup will be available through the Beth Israel website, ww.bethisrael-aa.org, or offline through Rebecca Kanner at 994-5717.

The Shelter Association serves the largest percentage of those experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County: single adult men and women. All of the clients share two characteristics: they have no place to live, and they do not currently have the resources to secure and maintain housing. Many of the clients are unable to obtain housing on their own, because they are facing multiple barriers that impede their ability to do so.

The Shelter Association offers a variety of services and programs to help individuals who are experiencing homelessness. Services range from providing emergency shelter, referrals for substance abuse treatment, clothing vouchers, transportation, and food to providing health care, housing assistance, and money management.

World Wide Wrap

Sunday, February 6, 9:30 a.m.

The Beth Israel Men's Club sponsors locally the "World Wide Wrap." This program is a project of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, which encourages Jews around the world to put on tefillin and pray together. Beth Israel will provide extra sets of tefillin and experienced tefillin teachers will be available to assist anyone (man or woman) who would like to participate in this important mitzvah.

Beth Israel is known for its post service Polar Bear Tefillin Photo which captures all the tefillin clad participants in the out-of-doors, regardless of the weather.

Following the Shaharit service, participants will enjoy a brunch of bagels, lox, and coffee. The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs is an organization of approximately 270 Conservative/Masorti Jewish men's groups consisting of 25,000 individuals across North America and the world. The FJMC involves Jewish men in Jewish life by building and strengthening Men's Clubs in the Conservative/Masorti Movement.

Erev Shabbat House of Kaifeng

Friday, December 24

Beth Israel offers the opportunity to enjoy a Shabbat dinner with a Chinese flavor, named after the Chinese city which hosted a large Jewish congregation for hundreds of years. There is a charge, which must be prepaid. Further details will be found on the Beth Israel website.

The general community is always welcome to events. All of Beth Israel's events, plus all educational offerings are open to the general community, often at no cost. For further information call 665-9897 or visit www.bethisrael-aa.org.

Reconstructionist Havurah's new Torah table

Jennifer Cohen, special to the WJN

When the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah gathers to celebrate the re-dedication of the temple at its annual Chanukah party at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor on December 5, 4–7 pm, it will also host a dedication ceremony for its new Torah table.

This dedication marks the culmination of several months of effort on the part of several Havurah members and offers a chance for the whole community to put their hands on this community project. Efforts began months ago when the long-term loan of a Torah reading table expired, and the Havurah realized it needed to come up with a replacement.

Rather than simply purchase something that would suit the immediate needs of the congregation, a grand plan was hatched. The idea to have a community Torah table building project was dreamt up by Havurah member Marcy Epstein. That idea was turned into design by members Dale Sass and Alan Haber. The design was transformed into a table by the skilled efforts of Sass, Haber, and another Havurah member, Danny Steinmetz. The wood used for this project was grown and harvested on the property of yet another Havurah member, Jack Edelstein.

The design of the table is unique, fashioned to meet the needs of the Havurah. Most of the Havurah's events are held at the JCC, but not all. Services for High Holidays and some *b'nai mitzvot* are held elsewhere. Storage is also an issue, as all of the Havurah's things must be tucked back into a closet when not in use. The table would have to be collapsible and portable. It would also need to be adjustable, to accommodate Torah readers of different heights, and wheelchair accessible, too. The design team came up with a truly impressive answer to all of these needs.

Alan Haber with the Torah table

The table is beautifully striking in appearance, with some of the natural edge and the bark left intact to emphasize the "tree-ness of the wood," to quote one of the designers. The most interesting part of the table, however, might be the construction of the top. The table top is comprised of six boards (nicknamed Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and the Prophets) Connecting and aligning the boards are five thin and narrow splines. At a table finishing party in November, everyone in the community had a chance to write a blessing, prayer or name on these inner splines. Each of the table's pieces was hand finished and assembled, with the messages hidden within. Assembling the table as a community was part of Haber's vision, to "make it whole, shalom, and receptive for the Torah."

Everyone that has participated in the project, and that is just about everyone in the Havurah, will attest to the fact that it has been a glorious effort. As Havurah board member Debbie Zivan put it,

"It is truly of our congregation. All aspects of this project brought members of our congregation together. It turns out that spending time doing something with somebody is a real nice way to get know one another." This project exemplifies the Havurah—a wide variety of individuals, sharing their passions and talents, creating something lasting for the community. ■

Temple Beth Emeth's December and January programs

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

Grief Support Group

A Grief Support Group, moderated by a trained professional, is forming at Temple Beth Emeth and is open to the community. Those interested in participating should contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Tot story hour with Wendy Holden

Monday, December 13 and January 10, 10 a.m.

Beth Emeth's Tot Story Hour will change from meeting on Wednesdays to Mondays this month. On December 13 and January 10, Wendy Holden, will share a story with tots in the TBE library. There is no need to RSVP.

Twenties & Thirties: bowling for Chanukah

Saturday, December 4, 6–9 p.m.

On the fourth night of Chanukah, TNT will meet at 6 pm at Colonial Lanes, 1950 South Industrial. Two hours of bowling, shoes, pizza, and soft drinks are all included for $15. RSVP by December 1 to Brett Willner, bwillner@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

Twenties & Thirties: Thai Shabbat dinner

Friday, January 14, 6 p.m.

TNT will gather for a delicious untraditional Thai Shabbat Dinner at Tuptim, 4896 Washtenaw Avenue. Couples and singles are welcome to attend. For more information or to RSVP, contact Brett Willner at bwillner@templebethemeth.org or call the TBE office at 665-4744.

Families with young children Chanukah celebration

Sunday, December 5, 4–5:30 p.m.

Join other families with young children for an afternoon of fun and celebration of Chanukah. Activities for kids will include crafts, menorah making, dreidles, and story time with Rabbi Levy. The event is free and there is no need to RSVP.

Movie Tuesdays in December and January

Tuesday, December 21, from 1–3 p.m., TBE will show *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, a Woody Allen classic that follows the lives of two New York City Jews who both are going through separate moral life crisis. Judah Rosenthal, an ophthalmologist, is trying to figure out how to end a long running affair, while Cliff Stern, an independent filmmaker, is attempting to work with his successful brother who represents everything he despises.

Tuesday, January 18, from 1–3 p.m., the movie selection is the Argentinean film, *Lost Embrace* (*El Abrazo Partido*). This comedy-drama tells the story of a young Jewish Argentinean shop owner, whose grandparents are Polish Holocaust survivors. When he was young, his father made aliyah (immigrated to Israel) to fight in the Yom Kippur War, in 1973, and never returned to Argentina. The movie follows his interactions with fellow storeowners, finding out why his father never came back to Argentina, and telling his grandmother he wants to move to Poland.

All community members are invited to the free afternoon movies and discussions.

Chinese dinner and a movie

Saturday, December 25, 4 p.m. dinner and 6 p.m. movie

What is open on December 25? How about Chinese food and a movie? TBE extends an open invitation to community members to gather with congregation members for an early dinner at Dynasty Chinese Buffet, 4683 Washtenaw, at 4 p.m. There is a choice of having the buffet or ordering from the menu. After dinner the group will go to Rave Motion Pictures, 4100 Carpenter Rd, Ypsilanti, for a choice of movies. RSVP to the Temple Beth Emeth office, 665-4744 so that dinner space can be reserved.

TBE adult-ed

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

Shabbat Torah Study with David Aaron

January 15, 9:30 a.m.

Once a month beginning in January, everyone is invited to participate in Saturday Morning Torah study with Rabbi David Aaron. Rabbi Aaron, a professor of Bible at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, is a visiting scholar with the University of Michigan's Frankel Center. For more information, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org.

Women's Torah Study

Monday December 6 and 20, January 3 and 17, 7-8:30 p.m.

The first and third Mondays of each month, Cantor Annie Rose leads a Women's Torah Study at Temple Beth Emeth. Published a few years ago, the *Women of Reform Judaism Women's Commentary* has become a major source of insight for those studying Torah in depth or simply reading the weekly parsha, portion. In December the Women's Torah group will study Vayigash and Sh'mot and in January, the portions Bo and Yitro.

Men's Torah Study

Wednesday December 8 and 22, January 12 and 26, 7:30 p.m.

The Brotherhood at Temple Beth Emeth hosts a bi-monthly Torah Study for men only. The evening includes learning, lively discussion, and a bit of fun and refreshments. For more information contact Roger Stutesman, rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net.

Spirituality Book Club

The first Tuesday and Thursday each month,

Cantor Rose, offers a Spirituality Book club. There is now both a daytime and evening session. On Thursday, December 2 at noon and Tuesday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m, the book Spinoza and Us: Toward an Intellectually Vibrant Judaism, by Rabbi Marc Angel Maimonides will be discussed. January's book is Our Dance with God, by Rabbi Karen Kedar. January dates are Tuesday, January 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 6 at noon. Participants are welcome to drop in for selected sessions or the entire series that continues through June. Visit the TBE website, www.templebethemeth.org, for the book list for the year.

TBE All Ensemble concert

Sunday, January 2, 4 p.m.

Beth Emeth's Youth Choir, Middle School Shir Chadash, High School Shir Chadash and Kol Halev, the adult choir, present a lively concert open to the community. Free.

The Blessing of Food

Saturday, January 29

Join Kathy Rhodes Phd, a nutritionist at the University of Michigan Hospital, and Terri Ginsburg, TBE director of education, to explore what Judaism can teach about developing an attitude of appreciation, moderation and sometimes celebration around the dinner table. The program is Saturday, January 29 from 8:45–10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. during religious school.

Beit Café: Adult Education Night

Monday, January 31, 7–9 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth will be having its third Adult Education Night of the year. Participants may choose two of four classes to attend, with an Italian-themed refreshment break, around 8 p.m. Come for one hour or both to this free event. For more information, contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org.

The mitzvah of Chanukah

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

I once heard a talk by the Lubavitcher Rebbe that had the thesis that the whole mitzvah of Chanukah comes from the *Bet Ha Mikdash* (the Holy Temple). The only reason we have a menorah is because of the great menorah in the Holy Temple that the *kohen* would light every day (not just Chanukah) in the late afternoon. When the Greeks invaded and overran the Holy Land, they destroyed the temple and attempted to defile all of the sanctified oil that was set aside for the exclusive use in the holy menorah. They were successful, with the exception of one cruze of oil. Each cruze of oil was enough for one day. But the process of refinement and purification of the oil took eight days. We all know that the single day's worth of oil miraculously lasted eight days, until more sanctified oil could be produced-hence, the eight days of the holiday of Chanukah.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

There are five points of our celebration of the miracle of Chanukah that are different from the basic procedure of the menorah activity in the holy temple.

1) The first difference in how the menorah was lit. In the holy temple all seven wicks were lit every day. During Chanukah, we light one candle the first day, two candles the second day, etc.
2) The second difference is that in the Holy Temple, the menorah was lit in the inner chamber out of sight of the public. On Chanukah, in order for our menorah to be kosher, we make a point to place it in a window or door facing the public street.
3) The third difference is that in the Holy Temple they would light the candles only during the day. In contrast, on Chanukah the lights are kindled only at night.
4) The fourth difference is that in the Holy Temple there were seven candles while our Chanukah menorah has eight.
5) The fifth difference is that the holy menorah was only lit when we had a Holy Temple in the Holy Land. In contrast to the Chanukah menorah, which is lit at Chanukah through all times wherever there is a Jewish home.

So we might ask the question, "If the Chanukah menorah is based on the Holy Temple menorah, why are there so many differences?" We can answer it this way.

The key difference is in the fifth one mentioned above. At all times in Jewish history –even the darkest times of exile under the harshest and most difficult conditions–Jewish people have lit their Chanukah menorahs. As opposed to the time when the Holy Temple was standing which was a time when the Jews were settled in their land and could practice all of their religious precepts in a settled manner. So, once we understand these differences, we have a key to understanding the other four examples.

1) During the time of the Holy Temple, the same number of candles were lit each day because it was a settled, peaceful time and no extraordinary measures needed to be taken. As opposed to our experience in exile where we should always strive to bring more light to the world each successive day in order to dispel more darkness.
2) During the settled, peaceful times of the Holy Temple, there was no need to project the light of the menorah out of the temple. As opposed to exile where we are constantly fighting to overcome the darkness. So symbolically, we make sure the Chanukah lights are projecting to the outside.
3) Similarly, with regards to the temple menorah being lit during the day, this symbolizes that during those times, the holy spirit of God, the *Shechinah*, was apparent and available to everyone. In contrast to today when God has withdrawn his countenance. This is symbolized by night–darkness, which we seek to dispel and bring light symbolizing the time when God's countenance will shine upon us again.

4) Regarding the difference between the seven or eight candles, in kabbalah there is a significant qualitative difference between the numbers seven and eight. Seven is a number indicating completion and being settled. For example: seven days of creation, seven years in the Sabbatical cycle, seven times seven years in the Jubilee cycle, seven times seven days of counting the omer between Pesach and Shavuot, seven levels of emotion (middot), etc. Eight indicates an open-ended, infinite quality in opposition to the quality of completion in the number seven. Seven is a settled number, so we use seven during the settled times when we are in our land and in our temple. The number eight, which is an open-ended number implies that we need to act out of the ordinary mode and make more of an effort to do more to dispel darkness. Also, the infinite quality of the number eight tells us that we will always have Chanukah candles, even after the redemption and re-establishment of the holy temple.

In conclusion, we learn that we must always be increasing and adding to our efforts to do mitzvot and to always be reaching out further into the darkness to bring light there. Once we have completed our missions here in exile and brought all the light God wants us to bring, the Redeemer will be sent to bring us out of exile and return us to our land and bring peace to the whole world. As it is written: " The Lord will be King over all the earth; on that day the Lord will be One and His name One." May it be speedily in our days. ■

Why Hebrew

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

One of the questions that I am most frequently asked, by Jews and non-Jews alike, is why Jews pray in Hebrew. For those who are not conversant in Hebrew, it seems counter-intuitive that we would be expected to verbalize our innermost thoughts to a God who obviously can understand any human language using words we don't understand.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

Let me give several answers to this question with the hope that one or more will resonate with all of you who have wondered about the place of Hebrew in Jewish ritual.

However, first it must be stated clearly that Judaism embraces and encourages prayer with any words in any language. Spontaneous prayer is a Jewish phenomenon; and even when we speak about ritualized prayer, many of the prayers (for example the *Amida*) can be said in any language the speaker understands and one fulfills the obligation for saying these prayers equally regardless of the language in which the prayers are said.

But some prayers, according to our tradition, must be said in Hebrew and communal prayer is traditionally centered around a publicly recitation of the Hebrew text. What is the advantage of retaining this tradition?

Using Hebrew language connects us to our past and insures that our rich historical legacy of language continues to the generations to come.

The first answer to this is contained in the words of the last sentence: tradition. Using Hebrew language connects us to our past and insures that our rich historical legacy of language continues to the generations to come.

But, while this may be true, it is not a sufficient reason. We need to look for a deeper rationale for continuing the tradition of Hebrew prayer.

In addition to the "tradition" answer, there are several other ways to approach the issue. First, the Hebrew language unites our people in synagogues around the world. Many of us have had the experience of praying in synagogues in countries whose language we do not speak or understand. I will never forget the moment I walked into the synagogue in Athens, Greece, for Shabbat services many years ago. The sound of the prayers was such a comfort for me. Knowing that the language of the ritual would be familiar was a taste of home, and that experience is played out throughout the world over and over again.

Secondly, the truth is that the concepts and values of our tradition are best conveyed using Hebrew words. For centuries scholars have tried to decide on precise translations of some of the basic Hebrew prayer vocabulary, and have found in many cases that precise translations are impossible to achieve.

Even the translation of the foundational words eludes us. *Tzedakah*, for example, does not mean "charity" but rather is derived from the word "*tzedek*" meaning "righteousness." *Kadosh* means "holy," but has a connotation of separateness and uniqueness that the word "holy" does not convey. *Baruch*, the first word in the standard blessing, is particularly difficult to translate: is it "blessed," "praised," or something else entirely. By using the Hebrew words, those who are familiar with Jewish texts in general can make connections between the words of the prayers and the texts from the Torah that inspired them. Translations just do not convey what the Hebrew implies.

Of course, this assumes that a person is familiar with the Hebrew and that is another significant reason to embrace Hebrew in Jewish worship. Those who want to engage in prayer with the congregation find it easier if they learn Hebrew, and this has benefits for a Jew that reach far beyond understanding the *siddur* (prayer book). I would encourage those who feel somewhat uncomfortable in a service centered on Hebrew to use that discomfort as an incentive to learn more Hebrew. Thankfully, we live in a community where there are opportunities to study Hebrew on all levels. By continuing to structure our services in Hebrew, we keep alive the importance of Hebrew to our people.

Finally, the truth is that in Jewish tradition, a prayer means more than the sum of its words. Even if one doesn't understand the words, the traditional prayers are intended to bring up deep, personal associations that would be impossible in any other language. Think for a moment of the difference between hearing the Shema in Hebrew or in English. A person might "understand" the English words more clearly, but I would argue that hearing and saying the words in Hebrew resonate more deeply within us and awaken in us a spiritual sense which the English might not convey.

When we seek to pray to God, we should use the words that mean the most to us. While each of us is free to say words that we find most satisfying, the use of Hebrew during prayer is a way to access something much deeper and that is why we continue to use the traditional words today. ■

Young Judaea Year Course offers unique Israel experience

Michele Freed, special to the WJN

During Young Judaea's Year Course orientation, everyone was told a story—the tale of a man who was told by a genie to go and collect as many stones as he could find in a forest until his sack was completely full. The more stones in the sack, the more he would be rewarded. The man gladly accepted the challenge and ventured into the woods to find as many stones as possible. After about two hours the sack was a third-way full, and was starting to become heavy. Regardless, the man continued to gather more stones. He searched and collected until his arms were sore, his bag two thirds of the way full, and his mind content. Pretty pleased with his work, the man returned to the Genie where he presented the sack. The Genie saw all the man had collected within the sack. He saw the hard work, perseverance, and determination. He gladly then turned every stone in the bag into a diamond. At first the man was overjoyed to see his new fortune, but then realized that the bag was only two thirds full. How much more could this man have received if he had gone just a little longer, pushed just a little harder….

Here, on Year Course, a nine month long gap year program in Israel through Young Judaea, we are doing everything we can to leave no extra space in our sack, to make every stone we can find into a diamond, every second of our time into a memorable and meaningful experience. On this program we are learning to live independently, navigate our way through the Hebrew language, and adapt to a whole new way of life—exploring the country by foot and immersing ourselves in a new culture.

Over the nine months, we live in three different cities, each for three months. Every location—Bat Yam (just south of Tel Aviv), Arad (in the Negev desert), and Jerusalem (Israel's capital city)—presents us with its own unique taste of Israel.

For the past two months we have been living in Bat Yam. At first, we were presented with many challenges. We didn't know our way around and we had to adjust to the public bus transportation system. Slowly, but surely we started figuring everything out and adapting to the differences between our lives in America and our new lives here in Israel. Now we know Bat Yam like the back of our hands.

Michele Freed (center) with friends in Israel

A typical week for us in Bat Yam looks like this: On Sunday and Tuesday we have morning classes, which include *Ulpan* (Hebrew lessons) and Zionism. On Mondays and Wednesdays we have group volunteering which covers everything from teaching English at an alternative high school, to working in a *gan* (kindergarden), or helping out with the city's irrigation system. Our evenings are filled with *peulot* (activities) organized by our counselors, *tsofim* (Israeli Scouts) activities. On Wednesdays we have an optional night class to further our understanding of Israel and Zionism through, art, video, and ethics.

Bat Yam is a prime location for a young adult living in Israel. Not only it is just a half-hour bus ride south of Tel Aviv, it also has it's own beautiful beach, as well as a large mall, movie theatre, and sports facilities

Having been raised in the unpredictable weathers of Michigan, it's an amazing, and surreal feeling to know that even now at the end of October, we have to remember to apply sunscreen in the face of the beautiful, glistening sun. After a beautiful warm day in Bat Yam, the nights leave you in a crisp breezy atmosphere—perfect for strolling down the port of Jaffa.

We enjoy taking the weekends as a time to travel outside of Bat Yam, hike, or visit family or friends whom we would not have the chance of seeing if it weren't for our freedom provided to us by the Year Course program. This freedom allows us to take the initiative for our own lives and experiences, and make the most of this year that we possibly can.

Year Course also provides us with the opportunity to earn credits equal to one year of college. And, the best part is that we are able to study Hebrew, Zionism, and Israel—in Israel! In turn, we are always learning, always listening, always experiencing things that bring us closer to our connection with both our past heritage and current Jewish homeland.

From the Idan Reichal concert, to the first Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Israel, and the Blind Museum in Holon, Year Course shows us as many aspects of Israel as possible. Plus it is done in the most fun, and meaningful ways—specifically programmed for young adults our age.

With two months down, and one to go in Bat Yam, it is sad to think that we will shortly be leaving such an amazing place that we have easily been able to call our new home. However, knowing that two more new homes await our arrival, presence, and help, makes it all that more exciting to look forward to the new days as we say goodbye to the past ones. We anticipate the dry hum of the warm desert in Arad, and the spiritual freedom of Jerusalem. Everywhere we go gives us a new ability to explore our own Jewish identity, enrich our Zionistic ideology, and grow as a maturing individual.

We have already begun searching for our stones to fill our magic sacks. By the end of these nine months, after taking every opportunity ahead of us, and grasping the treasures of this year, we are sure we will not be disappointed. Our sacks will be filled with diamonds, our minds filled with memories, and our hearts filled with love for the friends we've made, and for the land of Eretz Yisrael. ■

Michele Freed, the daughter of Eileen and Gary Freed, graduated from Huron High School in June 2010.

My home away from home

Heather Hoberman, special to the WJN

Hillel at Eastern Michigan University has been my home away from home for my now five years at Eastern. Having Hillel at EMU on campus allowed me to celebrate my religious traditions in my own way, see myself as a global Jewish citizen, and shape myself into a community leader. Since freshman year, Hillel at EMU provided me with amazing opportunities that I would either not have known about or not pursued on my own.

My first experience with Hillel was participating in a Taglit Birthright Israel trip back in May of 2006. The trip really opened my eyes to Israel all it has to offer. Since then, I have returned to Israel twice, both times through Hillel. I returned to Israel in December of 2006, the same year as my initial trip, as well as the year of Israel's conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon. This trip was a Hillel Alternative Winter Break trip called, "Leading up North." We traveled to Kiryat Shemona, Israel's northernmost city, where we helped to paint and decorate a school bomb shelter. I felt truly gratified that I helped provide those children with a safe space where they can at least be physically comfortable, instead of just afraid. The third time I traveled to Israel was for Hillel's Student Leaders Assembly. I was deeply moved to see so many young Jews from all over the world together in Israel, learning to become the next generation of Jewish community leaders.

Heather Hoberman

Hillel at EMU also gave me the opportunity to participate in an Alternative Spring Break trip to Miami, Florida. Hillel collaborated with Habitat for Humanity to work on two homes: one home was still under construction and the other was being prepared for its dedication. To have helped prepare this home and then be able to witness its dedication was a uniquely rewarding experience. I now understand the precious gift that a home truly is, something most of us too easily and too often take for granted.

In addition to the many opportunities to travel, Hillel at EMU has helped me expand my horizons right here in Michigan. Not only have I built life-long friendships, but Hillel at EMU empowered me to create Jewish experiences for myself and my peers. I have eaten countless Shabbat meals, helped create Chanukah celebrations, and contributed to countless other Jewish events and experiences. I served as a programming intern for Hillel at EMU where I had the opportunity to learn from dedicated and talented professionals and gain vital job skills while creating amazing events. I have learned about Jewish organizations such as Jewish Family Services and Jewish Vocational Services that serve my home Jewish community in metropolitan Detroit. I chose to invest my time in Hillel at EMU and it has afforded me substantial returns in ways I could never have imagined. I am incredibly blessed to be a part of the Hillel at EMU community. Hillel at EMU has given me the chance to grow and commit to Jewish life. Because of Hillel at EMU, I will be a life-long participant in and supporter of the Jewish community, wherever my future takes me. ■

Heather Hoberman is a senior at EMU and grew up in West Bloomfield.

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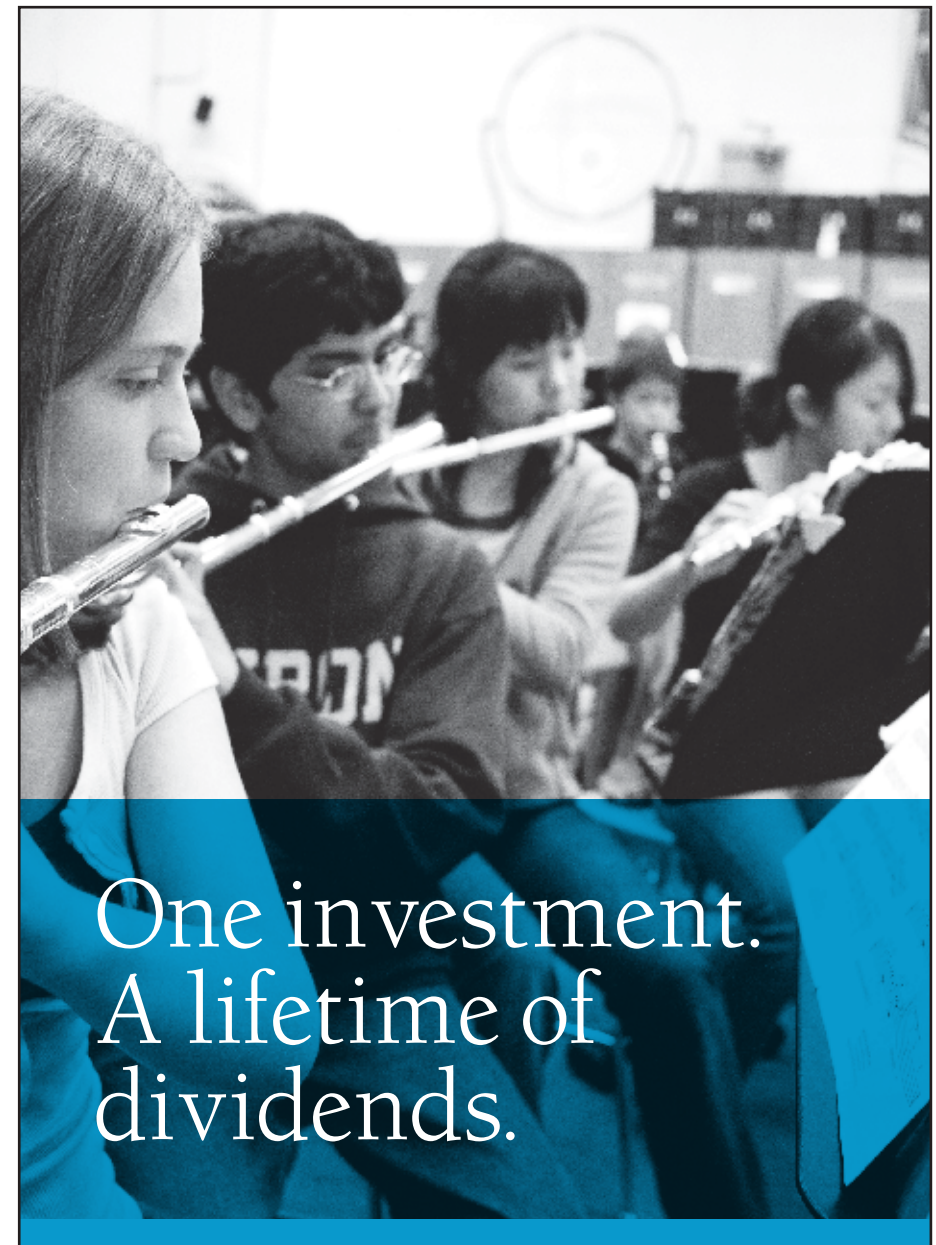

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Ann Arbor dances with Silvio

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

Every fall, the Jewish Educators Council (JEC) of Ann Arbor brings a scholar-in-residence to the community to provide the Jewish educators in the community something new to add to the richness of their classrooms. Last year, the JEC brought naturalist Gabe Goldman to town. Another year, the teachers of the community learned from grass-roots *tzedakah* maven Danny Siegel. This year, the JEC brought Israeli dance instructor Silvio Berlfein to Ann Arbor. Silvio is known for his ability to bring Israeli dance to many ages and abilities, and his expertise at making teachers comfortable with teaching Israeli dance in their own classrooms, and making this kind of movement a part of their programs. Silvio was not new to Ann Arbor. He had a very positive influence on the educator's community after his last visit over six years ago, and the JEC felt that a new generation of teachers would benefit from his return.

Silvio's first stop when arriving in Ann Arbor on October 20 was Beth Israel Religious School (BIRS), where he danced with the older elementary students and the seventh-graders. His next stop was at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, where he conducted a dance workshop for all of the Jewish educators in the community. Teachers of all age groups learned not only how to do each dance, but also how to teach it. Noreen DeYoung, director of the JCC's Early Childhood Center, said, "The teachers had a lot of fun learning from Silvio. They had a chance to move, and as they were learning, so many of them talked about which dances they wanted to teach their students. I was excited to hear them feel so confident about using what they were learning from Silvio."

The next morning, Silvio visited the Hebrew Day School, where he worked directly with the students of each grade. Head of School Dina Shtull reported, "The kids loved it. They love movement and music, and they have to focus and follow directions in order to succeed. There is even research that these kinds of experiences are the best cognitive educational experiences for young children."

Friday morning, Silvio visited the JCC Early Childhood Center, where he worked with children from ages two through five. The teachers were very excited that Silvio was introducing new dances to the children. A favorite among the preschoolers was a dance called "HaAuto Shelanu"—"Our Car." The teachers were also interested in trying a "Boker Tov" dance in their classrooms. Friday evening, Silvio returned to BIRS to dance with the sixth graders to kick off their overnight Shabbaton.

Saturday took Silvio to the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School. Assistant Director Viki Shayna had very positive impressions of Silvio's vist: "Both students and teachers at TBE were enthusiastic about their Israeli dance experience with Silvio. The music was lively, the instruction was easy to follow, and Silvio was fun to watch and imitate. "Let's do this again" was a common refrain heard in the hallways of the school on Saturday morning." That night, Silvio was the featured guest at an Israeli Coffee House and dance party hosted by Ann Arbor Rikud, the group of Israeli dance enthusiasts that meets weekly at the JCC.

Silvio's final stop on his whirlwind journey through the Jewish educational institutions of Ann Arbor was a joint session with the Reconstructionist Havurah's Beit Sefer and the Jewish Cultural Society's Cultural School. Cultural School director Deborah Rubyan said, "We had a wonderful time with Silvio! His presentation was lots of fun and he was able to make everyone feel comfortable dancing together… from our kindergartners to our high school students!" The Havurah's Aura Ahuvia was equally amazed at Silvio's ability to bring students together through dance, recalling that, "Silvio did an amazing job with our Beit Sefer kids from the Reconstructionist Havurah. He comfortably wove together one group out of our kids and the Jewish Cultural Society's kids."

As time goes by, many of the dances that Silvio taught will become part of the fabric of Ann Arbor's Jewish schools. The Jewish Educator's Council is able to bring talented educators like Silvio to Ann Arbor through the generous support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, which funds the activities of the JEC. ■

1. Silvio dances with HDS gansters
2. TBE students partner up for dance
3. HDS 4th graders Mara Metler and Shoshana Leflein
4. Silvio teaches HaAuto Shelanu to ECC preschoolers

JCC seeks teen athletes for 2011 JCC Maccabi Games

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Each summer the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor sends a team of athletes to the JCC Maccabi Games, an Olympic-style sporting competition that incorporates community service and social activities to combine for an unforgettable experience for Jewish teens.

This past summer, Ann Arbor and its Partnership 2000 (P2K) sister community, Moshav Nahalal, joined forces to send 13 teens to compete in the JCC Maccabi Games in Omaha, Nebraska. The athletes competed in swimming, volleyball, dance, tennis, and soccer and brought home over 25 medals and many wonderful memories.

Next summer, Ann Arbor's athletes will have the option to attend one of two different sites. For the first time, one of the sites for the JCC Maccabi Games will be in Israel, from July 24–August 5, 2011. The Israel Games will feature five days of touring Israel and visiting Partnership 2000 sister communities, and four days of sports competition. Teens will be able to compete in basketball, soccer, swimming, table tennis, tennis, dance, and girls volleyball. For the Israel Games, teens must be JCC members and must be 14–17 years old as of July 31, 2011.

The other site option available to Ann Arbor athletes is the JCC Maccabi Games in Springfield, Massachusetts, from August 14–19, 2011. Teens will be able to compete in girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, girls volleyball, track and field, swimming, bowling, golf, tennis, and table tennis. For the Springfield Games, teens must be JCC members and must be 13–16 years old as of July 31, 2011.

Athletes of all abilities are welcome to participate, and scholarship assistance will be offered for qualifying families. A limited number of spots are available, so interested families are encouraged to contact Deborah Huerta as soon as possible at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Spend Shabbat with Ken Pardes

Habonim Dror and Camp Tavor school-year programming

Matan Naamani, special to the WJN

During the school year Camp Tavor and Habonim Dror North America (the youth movement which Tavor is affiliated with) run local youth groups (*kenim*) in Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, Chicago, and Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, through which Jewish kids from elementary to high school, can be a part of a special community. The ken in Ann Arbor, Ken Pardes, is run by *madrichim* (counselors) from Tavor (many are alumni of the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor and of religious schools and programs at Beth Israel Congregation, Temple Beth Emeth, and the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah) and is a community of Jewish youth and families from around the Ann Arbor area.

So far this school year, Ken Pardes has hosted a range of activities. "The Ken" has run a barbeque for kids and families in the community and two Shabbat dinners (one about sustainability and one about community building). In November Ken Pardes hosted a Yitzhak Rabin memorial and created an interactive museum for *chanichim* (kids) in the ken to learn about Rabin, his accomplishments, and his legacy. In December, Ken Pardes will also host a Chanukah *Messibah* (party) and a Shabbaton/sleepover (for *chanichim* in 8th grade and older).

For families and kids who are considering Camp Tavor, Ken Pardes is a great place to meet campers, counselors, and families from Tavor and to get a taste of the Tavor community. For families who already have kids at Tavor, Ken Pardes is a great place to continue their involvement with Habonim and Tavor.

For questions or more information on Ken Pardes and Camp Tavor, or to join the email list, contact Matan Naamani at 904-6578 or ken.annarbor@gmail.com. Visit www.camptavor.com for more information on the camp.

Strong bonds and fun traditions at Camp Raanana

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

It is not even winter yet, but many local children are already counting the days until summer begins so they can return to Camp Raanana. Located on a beautiful private beachfront at Independence Lake, Camp Raanana is the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's outdoor summer day camp for children entering grades K–8.

Campers are not the only ones looking forward to Camp Raanana's 2011 debut. Camp Raanana's counselors are also excited for the next camp season, and several of them will be coming back for their fifth or sixth year on the camp staff. As one staff member said recently, "Summer camp is the best job I can think of and working at Camp Raanana is something I am truly passionate about!"

Camp Raanana's high return rate for both campers and staff helps the camp build a wonderful sense of community and keep alive many special camp traditions. Dozens of unique, silly, and memorable traditions have been developed over the years, and new traditions are added each year. Campers and staff members are encouraged to contribute ideas and suggestions, which makes each day of camp and each camp season even better than the one before.

Several new activities added this past summer became "instant traditions" that are sure to continue in the future. During Crazy Lunch Days, held each Thursday this summer, campers had the chance to mix up their groups during lunch and eat with siblings or friends in other grades. Another fun new activity was Spirit Week, which was introduced to celebrate the half way point of the summer with silly theme days such as Wacky Hair Day and Backwards Day.

Most of Camp Raanana's traditions, of course, go back for several years or, in some cases, several decades. Numerous special camp events have longstanding histories, including the annual Israel Day (featuring the Israel Scouts' visit and performance), the Camp Raanana Maccabi Games (featuring color war activities and relay races), and Shabbat at the Lake (featuring camper performances at the end of the summer).

Wacky Hair Day

All smiles at the Israel Scouts event

Other traditions of slightly newer vintage include the annual Pickle Troll visit, when the friendly neighborhood Pickle Troll comes to camp to give out kosher dill pickles to all the campers, and the end of summer Watermelon Splash, when the counselors square off to try to capture a greased watermelon in the lake. Another increasingly popular tradition is the Newspaper Fashion Show, during which campers design costumes for their counselors using only masking tape and newspaper.

The Pickle Troll visits camp

Shabbat at the Lake

In addition to its many special events and fun traditions, Camp Raanana offers swim lessons, arts & crafts, Judaics, nature exploration, music, sports, free swim, field trips, Shabbat celebrations, and much more. The camp program appeals to campers of all ages with nurturing programs for grades K–2, weekly specialties options for grades 3–5 (including Boating, Digital Photography, Drama, Drumming, Clay Creations, World of Sports, Silly Science, and more), and the Pioneer Adventure Program for grades 6–8, which features exciting daily field trips and fun mitzvah projects each week.

Camp Raanana will offer nine one-week sessions from June 20–August 19 this summer; the JCC will also offer an additional Summer Fun Days program from August 22-26. Early Bird Registration for Camp Raanana will begin when brochures are available in January. For more information, visit www.CampRaanana.com or contact camp director Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990. ■

Working on a chant during Maccabi Day

Camp Raanana seeks new staff for 2011

Camp Raanana, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's outdoor summer day camp, has several staff openings for this summer. Counselor in Training positions are available for teens who have completed 8th or 9th grade, Junior Counselor positions are available for teens who have completed 10th, 11th, or 12th grade, and Head Counselor and Specialist positions are available for college students and graduates. For more information about working at Camp Raanana or to request an application, contact camp director Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

JCC youth programs

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

JCC to offer Snow Day programs

The Youth Department of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will once again offer Snow Day programs this winter. On days when the JCC is able to open but Ann Arbor Public Schools are cancelled due to winter weather conditions, a Snow Day program will be offered from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. for students in grades K–5; middle school students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students will enjoy games, crafts, gym time, and fun in the snow (weather permitting).

Snow Day programs are for JCC members only. Registration in advance is not required, but parents will be asked to fill out a registration form and submit payment when they arrive. The cost for each Snow Day is $50; additional siblings and Kids' Konnection & Kids' Club participants receive discounts.

Winter break program offerings

The JCC will offer Winter Break Fun Day programs from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. on December 20–23 and December 27–30. Each Winter Break Fun Day will feature a fun field trip or special activity, plus crafts, games, and gym time or outdoor recess. Students may sign up for one or more days. Programming details for each day will be available in early December.

The Winter Break Fun Day programs are for JCC members ONLY in grades K-5; middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. The cost for each day is $36 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $10 for Extended Care from 4–6 p.m. Registration and payment are due by Monday, December 13.

New JCC enrichment classes

The JCC is planning an exciting schedule of afterschool classes for the January-February session. Youth Enrichment classes for elementary students will run for 6 weeks, beginning Monday, January 10, and continuing through the week of February 14. These fun and stimulating afternoon classes run from 4:20–5:20 p.m. and are open to both JCC members and non-members. Snack and supervision in the JCC's afterschool programs before each class are included for all class participants.

The enrichment schedule will be finalized in December, but will likely include several returning favorites such as Fit Kids, Gym Sports, Lego Robotics, Basketball with Benny, Kids Yoga, and Dazzling Desserts. In addition to the afterschool enrichment classes at the JCC, another session of the popular Swim with Kim class will be offered on Tuesday evenings from 5:30–6:30 p.m. at High Point School. Class fees vary; registration and payment will be due by January 6.

School's Out Day to include MLK Day performance

The JCC will offer two programs on Martin Luther King Day (January 17—a free community performance in the afternoon and an all day School's Out program.

All youth in the community and their families are invited to celebrate MLK Day by attending the free afternoon performance, which will feature the group Singers Of United Lands.

S.O.U.L. is a unique quartet of four professional young adult singers, each from a different country. The four singers are remarkable for their high-quality vocal musicianship, geographical diversity, and enthusiasm for sharing about their respective cultures. The performance times and details will be available in mid December. RSVPs for the performance are requested by January 13.

In addition to the community performance, the JCC will offer a full day School's Out Day program from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. for JCC members ONLY in grades K–5; middle school students may also participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Participants in the School's Out Day will enjoy the afternoon S.O.U.L. performance as well as special workshops with the S.O.U.L. singers and other fun activities. The cost for the School's Out day is $36 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $10 for Extended Care from 4–6 p.m. Registration and payment will be due by Wednesday, January 12.

Kid's Night Out set for January 22

Every other month, the JCC offers a Kids' Night Out event featuring games, crafts, dinner, and a movie or other special activities. The next Kids' Night Out will be held on Saturday, January 22, from 6:30–10 p.m. at the JCC.

The evening will start out with fun games and an optional talent show for anyone interested to show off their singing, dancing, music, magic, or other skills. After a pizza dinner, participants will enjoy a viewing of the hilarious movie Shrek Forever After, which follows the adventures of Shrek and his friends when they get sent to a mixed up version of Far Far Away.

Kids' Night Out events are open to JCC members and non-members in grades K-5. The cost for JCC members is $20 (additional siblings: $18). The cost for non-members is $25 (additional siblings: $23). Registration and payment will be due by Thursday, January 20.

For registration forms or more information about JCC youth programs, visit www.jccannarbor.org or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Diverse backgrounds and common goals: Hebrew Day School families

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

Whether they come from Venezuela, Jamaica. Latvia, United States, or, families who attend HDS seek educational excellence in a nurturing environment. They want their children to be academically skilled, grounded in their Jewish identities, confident in their talents, and poised to contribute to the world around them. Below is a snapshot of five HDS families.

Ricardo and Andreina Seir

Arianna (HDS '11) and Gabriel (HDS '13)

Ricardo and Andreina Seir were both born in Venezuela and met in the last year of dental school at the Central University of Venezuela in the capital Caracas. Andreina's parents and grandparents, also from Venezuela, are Catholic as is 99 percent of the population in Venezuela. Ricardo's mother was born in Tel Aviv, Israel; his maternal grandparents escaped there from the Holocaust, the only survivors of an 80-member family. The family moved to Caracas to join a paternal great uncle who had moved there for the promise of great opportunities. Ricardo's maternal grandfather was a pharmacist who had been the only Jewish student at the university in Prague where he had studied.

Ricardo, Andriena, Arianna and Gabriel

Ricardo's father was born in Venezuela in a small town called Valera where his parents immigrated before WWII. Ricardo's parents attended a Jewish day school in Venezuela, the same school that Ricardo attended years later, the Moral y Luces Herzl-Bialik. "I grew up with the notion that every Jewish kid, regardless of money or background, would attend this school," says Ricardo. "I attended from kindergarten to high school, had the same friends growing up, and remain friends with them to this day. I had at least three teachers who also taught my parents. My parents' childhood friends from school are still their friends. The Jewish community in Caracas is a very close community, and people help each other in every respect. I wanted something similar for my children, so for me there was no doubt that they would attend Hebrew Day School," says Ricardo.

Following dental school in Venezuela, Ricardo and Andreina came to Ann Arbor to pursue master's degrees in the School of Dentistry. Andreina has a master of science in pediatric dentistry. Ricardo has a master of science in restorative dentistry. They married after they finished school. When the political situation changed in Venezuela and their personal security was in danger, they decided to stay in Ann Arbor where they have been for the last 16 years. They both taught at the dental school, and now work in private practice. Both of their children, Arianna and Gabriel, were born in Ann Arbor. The family speaks Spanish at home, and now that the children are learning Hebrew, they are tri-lingual. "I come from a very close-knit family where love and support are a must," says Andreina. "The first day I walked into the HDS, I felt that this was the place I wanted for my children, not only because of the religion, but also because of the warm sense of community that you can breathe."

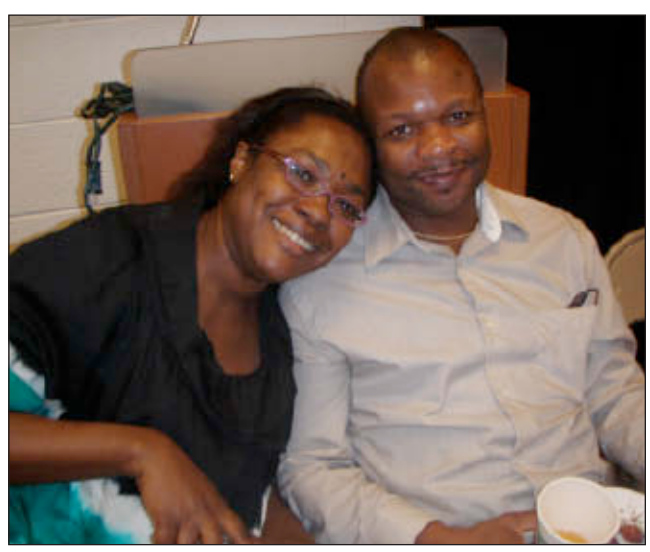
Michael Farquharson and Donnalee Grey-Farquharson

Chaelee (HDS '14) and Rachel (HDS '16)

Michael Farquharson and Donnalee Grey-Farquharson are both from St. Thomas, Jamaica. Both went to the same high school although they did not know each other then. Donnalee moved to Toronto, Canada to attend the University of Toronto and later became a certified high school teacher in chemistry and biology. Michael moved to Columbus, Ohio, where he obtained a degree in computers and electronics. After they met, Donnalee came to Ann Arbor for graduate school at the University of Michigan in Technology Education and Survey Methodology, and. Michael came along. Donnalee currently works on education research projects in the Education and Well Being Department at the University of Michigan's Institute of Social Research. Michael is currently an information technology specialist at the University of Michigan's International Institute.

Donnalee's Jewish journey began in her teens and was formalized as a young adult in Canada. Michael had knowledge of Judaism but was plunged into Jewish culture when he met and married Donnalee. They have three daughters: Michelle the eldest is in college, and Chaelee and Rachel are both students at HDS. The family belongs to Temple Beth Emeth congregation.

continued on page 19



Donnalee and Michael Farquharson

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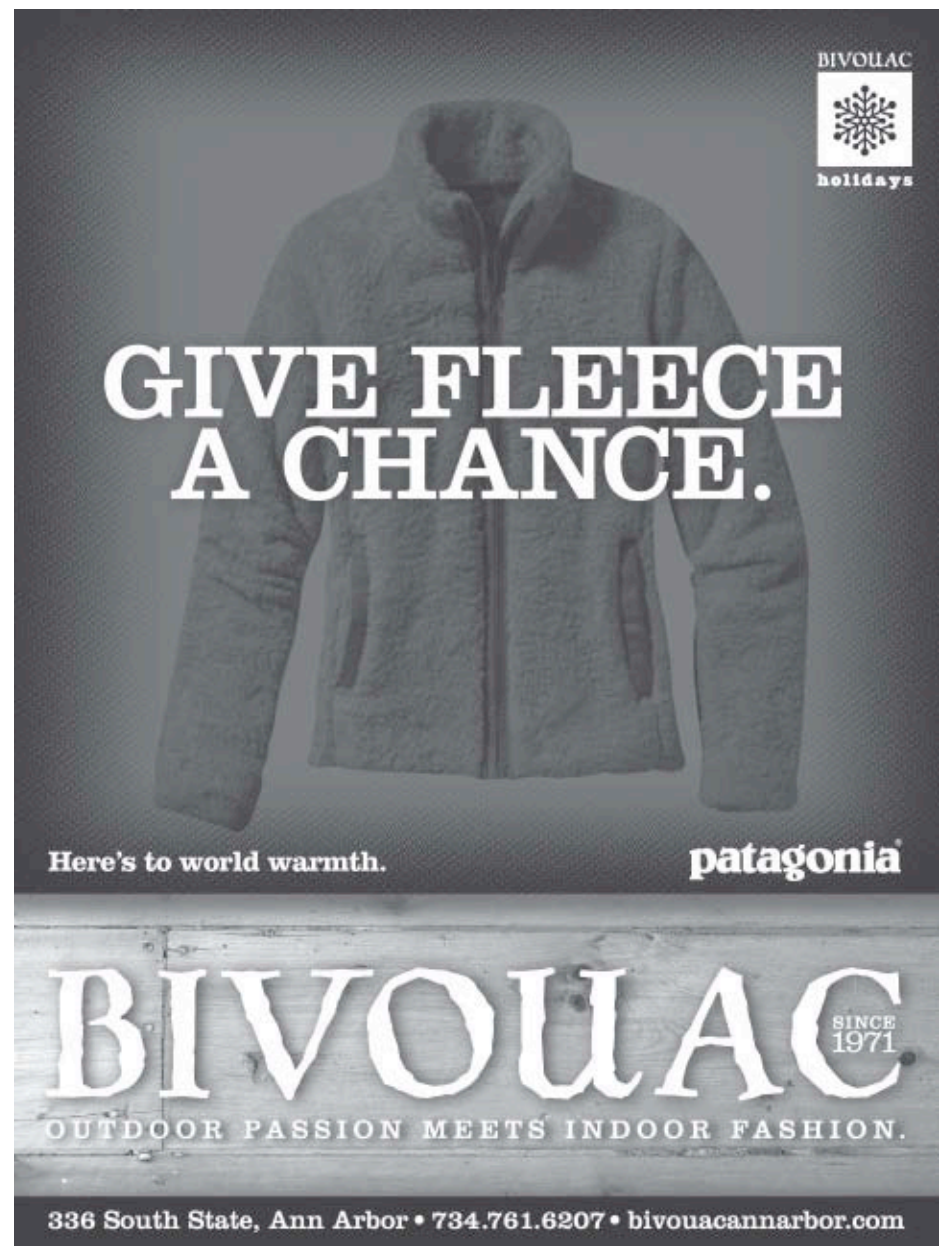

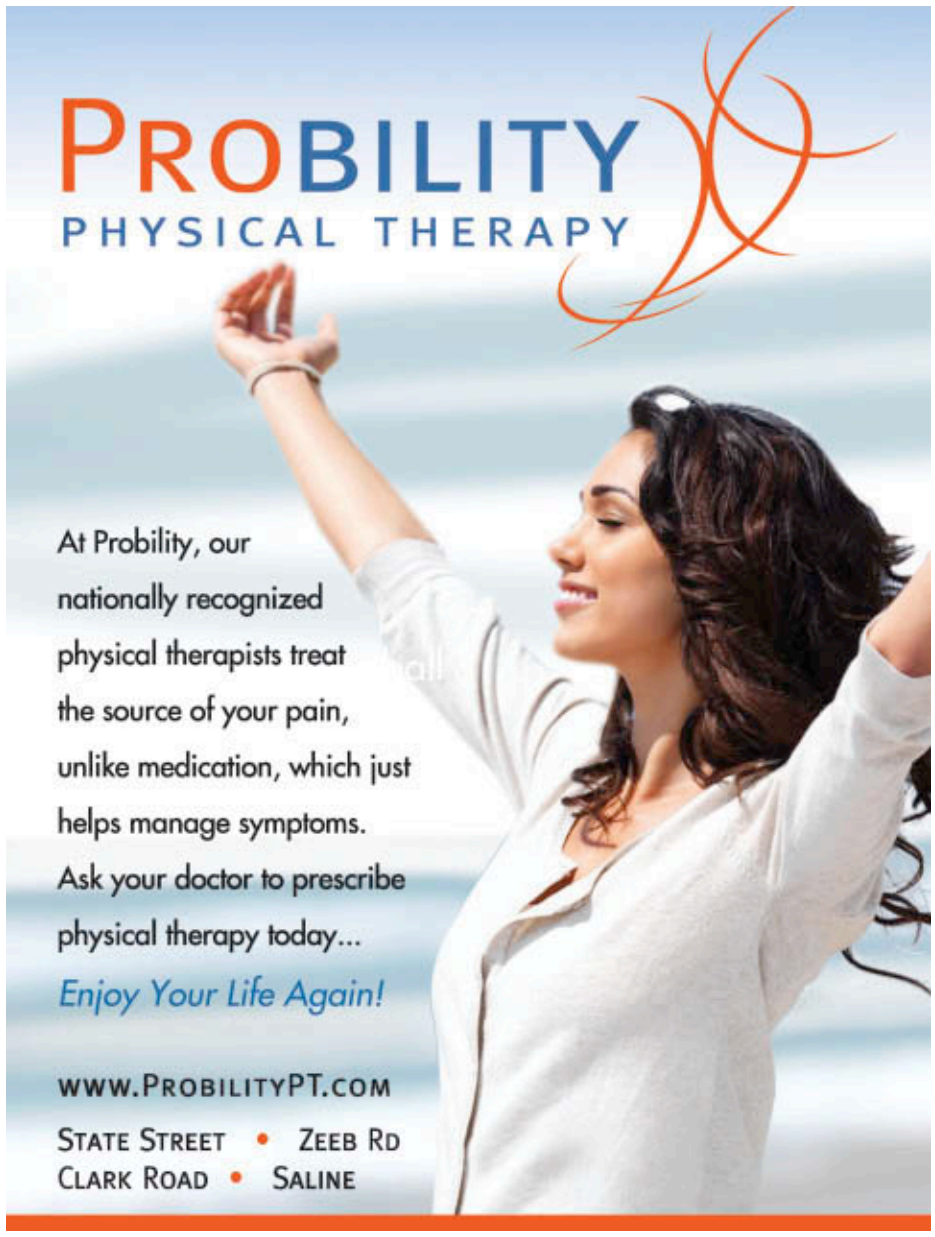
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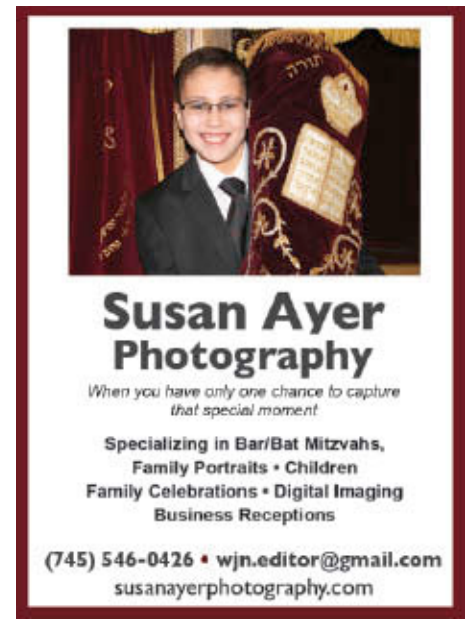
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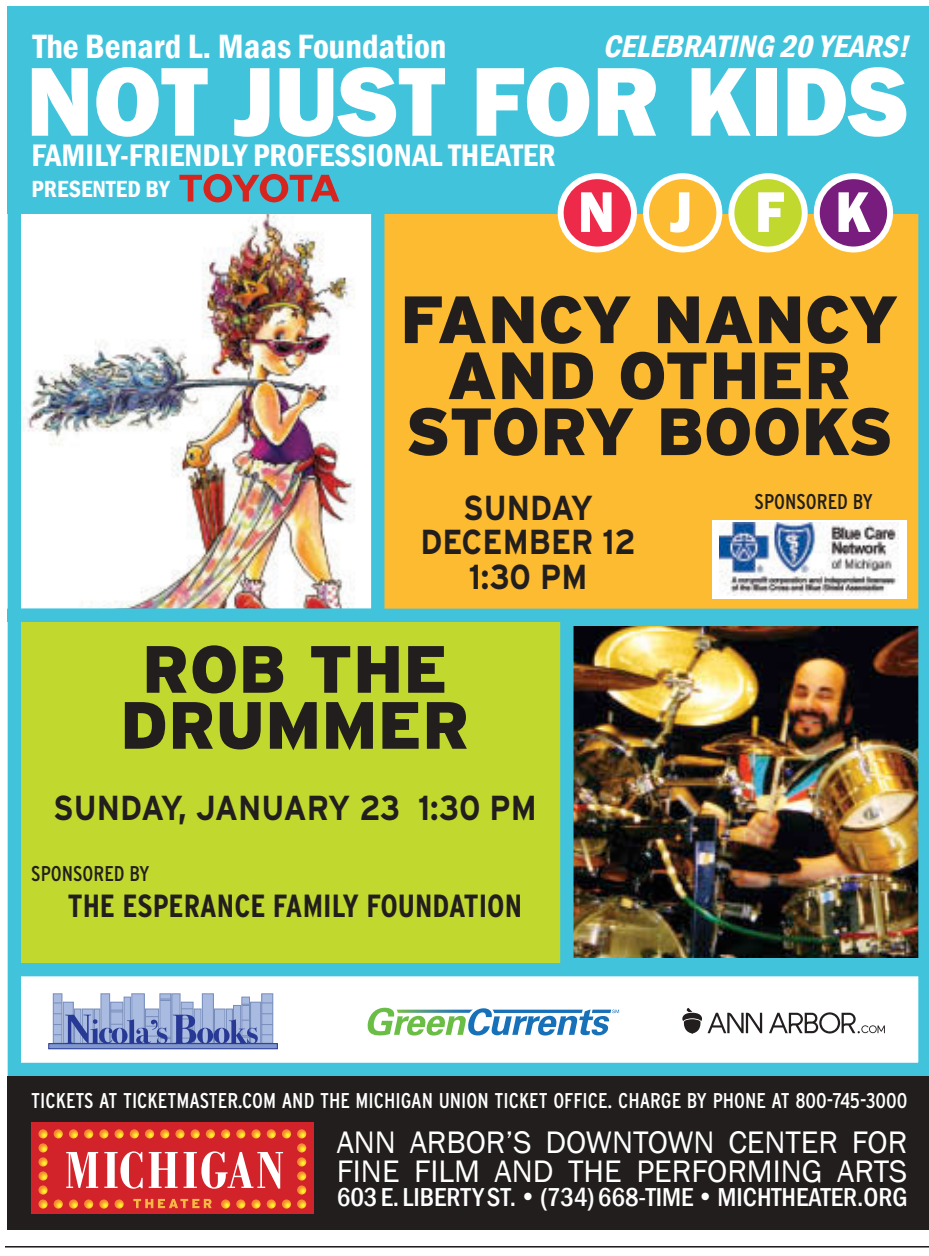
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HDS Families, continued from page 17

"HDS is important to us because it embeds the girls in the Jewish culture, and provides a Jewish family and home away from home for the girls," says Donnalee. "Our daughters love learning, reading, and writing Hebrew as a part of their day. The standard of education is very high and the children are nurtured, not only academically, but also emotionally. They are given what they need on an individual level. The teachers and staff are very accessible and responsive to our needs," adds Donnalee.

Debbie Zivan

Brayan (HDS '11)

Debbie was born and raised in Rochester, New York, where she was a member of Temple Beth El, a Conservative synagogue. She did not attend a day school but found a deep connection to Jewish life from attending Camp

Brayan and Debbie

Ramah in Canada. She came to Ann Arbor to attend University of Michigan. Debbie works in the field of health care satisfaction research and teaches the juggling chug at HDS. Brayan was born in Guatemala and came to live with her when he was 2 1/2 years old. Debbie and Brayan are members of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.

"While I struggled with the idea of putting him in an all-Jewish environment," says Debbie, "I felt that dedicating a significant part of his elementary education to Judaic education was the most effective, positive and enduring way to make living a Jewish life a core part of his foundation. I hope that this, in turn, will serve as a guide for him the rest of his life. Yet another key factor in my decision related to how I see things shaking out in the Jewish world; I am a big supporter of the various streams of Judaism and various definitions of living Jewishly; feels to me like exposing Brayan to a strong base of Jewish learning increases the chances of sustaining diversity in the Jewish world. With an HDS education, Brayan understands Jewish thought and text as a rich resource for many Jews from a variety of backgrounds," Debbie adds.

Luba Frank and Boris Bondin

Michael (HDS '07) Natan (HDS '13)

Luba Frank was born in St. Petersburg. She received her MD degree from Latvian Medical Academy, and while there, met Boris. Boris was born and raised in Riga, Latvia, and at the time was pursuing his engineering degree from Riga Technical University. They met and got married in Riga in 1991, and two years later decided to move to Israel, where they lived and worked for 13 years. Luba completed her radiology residency program at Carmel Medical Center in Haifa, and in 2006 received an offer from the University of Michigan to participate in a year-long postdoctoral fellowship in Cardiothoracic Radiology. Their two sons Michael and Natan (now 14- and 8-years-old) were born and raised in Israel. Luba currently is an assistant professor in the Cardiothoracic Division of the Radiology Department at the University of Michigan, and Boris is an electrical engineer at the University of Michigan Plant Operations.

"When we first thought of coming from Israel to America with two small children, we were concerned," shared Luba. "How could we go to a cold new place without knowing anybody, leaving everything behind even for one year? But when we started to search for information, we were surprised at how many people were associated with Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. Many people in Ann Arbor guided us before we came and also when we arrived. As we searched the web to know more about our soon-to-be home, we discovered Hebrew Day School. We were very excited to know about its existence, and we received the enrollment package by mail while we were still in Israel. Until today we still have no regrets for sending Michael to HDS for 5th grade in our very first year here. He was happy to go to school where he could speak his native Hebrew language while at the same time learning English and meeting new friends. He had his very own small Israel in America, which made transition to our new life much easier. We were very impressed with how he progressed. The help and personal attention Michael got from the teachers at HDS made him able to get an exceptionally high score in the MEAP in 6th grade, even in English, after only one year of being in the United States. Now Michael is a 9th grader at Huron High School, plays in the school's Junior Varsity tennis team and is an all "A" student. He is also very happy to attend Hebrew language lessons at "Keshet" to help him keep up with his Hebrew and all of his friends from HDS. This summer he proudly took part in the Maccabi games in Omaha. Last year, family and friends celebrated Michael's bar mitzvah at the Chabad House of Ann Arbor. Michael's brother, Natan was only 4 years old when we brought him to the United States. We consider HDS a great opportunity to keep Natan connected to Jewish environment. We hope he'll find lifelong friendships, and become a part of the community while obtaining a great education in Ann Arbor's very academically challenging environment," says Luba.

Boris, Natan, Michael andLuba

Myra and Rich Klarman

Max Klarman (HDS '14)

Rich Klarman was born in Detroit. He grew up in Southfield and attended Southfield Public Schools K-12. He was one of the very

Myra, Rich and Max

few kids in his neighborhood who didn't attend after-school and Sunday Hebrew school. Rather, his dad taught him to sound out *siddur* (prayer book) Hebrew, and somewhat later he studied some conversational modern Hebrew with a tutor. Just before his bar mitzvah, Rich and his sister, Emily, began to attend "Junior Congregation" at B'nai Moshe, where Rich's Hungarian grandparents had been members since the 1930s. "Junior Congregation was led by Mark Eichner," says Klarman. "He was a fantastic storyteller, and he happens to also be the father of another HDS parent (Adam Eichner)." Rich also attended Camp Young Judaea and Tel Yehudah during high school. He came to Ann Arbor as a freshman in U-M's Honors College, stuck around to earn his law degree, and never left. Rich has been attending Rabbi Glogower's Talmud class for 18 years, although he admits, "My Aramaic is still fairly horrible." Rich earns his livelihood as the TestGuru, providing private tutoring to aspiring lawyers (LSAT, law school, and bar exam) in his home office in the Burns Park neighborhood.

Myra Klarman was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in the suburbs of New York City. Her family was unaffiliated, although she does remember attending Hebrew school for one year. Her fondest Jewish memory was the annual Passover seder at her grandparents' apartment. "Best matzoh ball soup ever," she says. Myra came to Ann Arbor to be with Rich. "One of our first projects as a young couple was hosting our families for Passover," she shared. Myra studied graphic design and graduated with a BFA from Philadelphia College of Art (now the University of the Arts). Eighteen years later, after running her own successful design studio, she found her true calling as a portrait photographer. She enjoys sharing her photography talents with dozens of arts, educational, and social service organizations in the community, including HDS.

The entire Klarman family has been actively involved with FestiFools since its inception in 2006. Myra is their official photographer. Rich is on the steering committee and designed and maintains the festifools.org website, and Max is among the most enthusiastic community volunteers, who build puppets on the weekends leading up to the yearly event held in the beginning of April. They are also very involved with the Ann Arbor Summer Festival and Burns Park Players.

"We value the diversity of approaches to Judaism across the HDS families, from extremely observant to extremely secular, and the mutual respect—and commitment to klal yisrael—that that fosters," say the Klarmans. "We're so happy that HDS is not only giving Max the individual attention that allows him to thrive in school, but also a solid foundation in Jewish culture. The school is the perfect size: big enough that he has plenty of social stimulation and opportunities to participate in activities like the band, the string ensemble, and chess club, but small enough that it's still a tight-knit community that truly knows and adores him."

For more information about HDS, contact 971-4633 or look at www.hdsaa.org. Evening Open Houses will be held on Monday, December 13 and Thursday, January 27. Day Tour will be held on Tuesday, January 11. ■

Early enrollment tuition incentive and scholarships available

The Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor is offering a new tuition incentive for children entering kindergarten. All families applying to the HDS kindergarten for the 2011-2012 academic year will be entitled to an early enrollment tuition of $10,000 for the kindergarten child, close to a 20 percent reduction from the current tuition rate. Applications are due by February 1, 2011.

This offer is contingent on formal acceptance of the student. The additional sibling discount and early tuition incentive cannot be combined for the kindergarten. Other fees remain obligatory (registration, book and supply, PTO). Families may also apply for scholarships that are based on demonstrated need.

Each year, HDS designates a substantial amount of scholarships to assist families with demonstrated need. A loan may also be offered if a family is only temporarily financially impaired. The scholarship program helps ensure that the school maintains its diverse and inclusive student population. Further questions about scholarships can be directed to hdsscholarship@hdsaa.org.

GOP sweep makes one Jew a star, unseats and disempowers many others

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—A historic Republican sweep of the U.S. House of Representatives in the November election propelled Rep. Eric Cantor (R-Va.), the minority whip, to the verge of becoming the highest-ranking Jewish lawmaker in U.S. political history.

Cantor, however, remains the exception: The fortunes of Jewish politicians in the United States for decades have risen and fallen with the Democrats, and November's election was no exception.

The Republican sweep, picking up at least 60 House seats—the greatest swing since 1948—and sharply reducing the Democratic majority in the Senate, drove at least six Jewish lawmakers out of office, with one of them a congressman losing his bid for the Senate.

The election's Jewish losers included Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.), the Senate's most dogged civil libertarian, beloved by liberals for his steadfast opposition to the Iraq War and expansions of government powers of interrogation in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Feingold, in his concession, quoted another Great Plains Jew, Bob Dylan, who contemplated in "Mississippi" a difficult life well spent: "But my heart is not weary, it's light and it's free, I've got nothing but affection for all those who've sailed with me." Feingold then punctuated the lyric with, "On to the next fight!" to cheers from his supporters.

All told, Jewish representation in Congress dropped from 44 to 39, with 27 Jews in the House and 12 in the Senate. One loss in the Senate was Sen. Arlen Specter (D-Pa.), who had been defeated in the primaries. Additionally, Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), who enjoyed a narrow re-election victory, does not list a religion but notes that his mother is Jewish and a Holocaust survivor.

The defeat of five Jewish incumbents, however, just hints at what this election could mean for Jewish access in Washington.

Since a sweep by Democrats in 2006, lawmakers with strong ties to the Jewish community had chaired some of the most powerful committees in the House. Committee chairmen, by determining agendas, hold almost unchallengeable power to advance or kill legislation.

With Republicans having taken the house, those lawmakers, all Democrats, lose their chairmanships. They include Reps. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who heads the Banking Committee; Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), chairman of the Commerce and Energy committee; Howard Berman (D-Calif.), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), chairwoman of the foreign operations subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Furthermore, Jewish groups—most but not all of which are bound up with Washington's liberal-Democratic establishment—will see several veteran lawmakers with whom they have built years-long relationships exiting Congress. The most pronounced example is Rep. John Spratt (D-S.C.), who chaired the Budget Committee, which works with the White House to set spending priorities. Spratt's office had an open door for Jewish social service lobbyists.

The benefit of such access often is subtle but valuable. Berman, for example, was a loyal Democrat who kept Iran sanctions at bay for as long as the White House hoped to coax Tehran into dialogue. As soon as the White House gave the green light, however, Berman was ready with a far-reaching bill that targeted Iran's energy and banking sectors, and that was shaped in part with counsel from the pro-Israel community.

Such access will hardly disappear in a GOP Congress. Berman is likely to be replaced by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), who has cultivated close ties with the pro-Israel community and was a leader in advancing pro-Israel legislation when Republicans previously controlled the House. Jewish social service officials say Cantor has been a sympathetic ear on their issues. Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio), the minority leader poised to become speaker, has deep ties with his state's active Jewish community.

The certainty of such access, however, is less clear in a Congress shaped to a great degree by the Tea Party movement and its agenda of across-the-board budget cutting. Cantor already has said he intends to end earmarks, the discretionary funding derided as "pork" but favored by Jewish groups as a conduit for funding programs for the elderly.

Cantor and Boehner also have vowed to repeal the health care reform enacted this year. "I believe that when we take majority in January, I hope that we're able to put a repeal bill on the floor right away because that's what the American people want," Cantor told CBS News after the victory.

Republicans are not likely to overcome a presidential veto, but the threat is bound to make uneasy a Jewish social service establishment that sees in the legislation, however cumbersome, reforms critical to bringing down health care costs.

Cantor and Boehner are now set to ride a conservative tiger energized by the greatest mid-term victory in decades, and spurred by leaders like Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), who already on election night was urging the new lawmakers to challenge the Republican "establishment."

"These Republicans know one thing," DeMint told supporters at his victory party in Greenville, S.C. "If they don't do what they say this time, not only are they out, but the Republican Party is dead, and it should be."

In the face of such sentiment, it is unclear to what degree the GOP leadership will be willing to countenance Jewish organizational urgings to tread softly on budget matters.

A bright spot for the Jewish community was the election in Illinois of Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) to the open U.S. Senate seat. Kirk not only has been a leader on pro-Israel issues, he is an increasing rarity, and one beloved by Jewish donors who hanker for bipartisanship: a Republican moderate on social issues.

Pro-Israel officials already have fretted about Cantor's proposal to pull Israel's $3 billion in defense assistance from the foreign operations package. Such a separation, the officials fear, will make Israel vulnerable to charges of special treatment and could make the generous package a matter of debate. Rand Paul, a Tea Party Republican elected Kentucky's senator, already has said he will seek cuts in defense spending.

It has yet to be seen how a GOP-led Congress will affect the peace process or efforts to get Iran to stand down from its suspected nuclear weapons program. Foreign policy traditionally has been the prerogative of the president, but Congress is able to play an obstructionist role by exacting tough oversight on foreign spending.

continued on next page

J Street analysis of election results

Clare Kinberg, special to the WJN

In post-election Tele-Townhall on November 4, several members of Ann Arbor J Street joined 1,500 people nationwide in congratulating Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D) on her decisive re-election to Congress. In a disarmingly open conversation, Schakowsky expressed having been shaken by vicious Israel-related attacks against her by her Republican opponent. But the election results showed Jan Schakowsky remains tremendously popular with her Jewish constituents despite the terrible political environment facing Democratic incumbents across the country and her opponent Joel Pollak spending over $540,000 in his attack campaign. Despite the pressure, Schakowsky stood strong on her pro-Israel, pro-peace positions and support from JStreetPAC. And, like 45 out of 61 JSteetPAC endorsed candidates, Schakowsky won re-election.

While supporting Israel and its quest for peace is very important to her and her constituents, Israel was far from the top issue in the 2010 election as shown by J Street commissioned polls taken right before the election and on election day to determine if and how Israel affected how Jews voted. Nationwide, only seven percent of Jewish voters ranked Israel as one of the issues on which they decided their vote. Even in Schakowsky's district, which has a large proportion of Orthodox Jews who are more politically conservative, only fourteen percent consider Israel one of there top priorities in deciding how to vote. Similar to national trends, voters in Schakowsky's district were driven by the economy, much like the American electorate as a whole.

Pollster Jim Gerstein highlighted some of the polls other findings at the Tele-Townhall. Despite the political environment, Republicans and conservatives have no traction with American Jews. The Republican Party's favorability among Jewish voters stands at twenty-one percent. American Jews still strongly support Obama's policies on the Israeli-Arab conflict (60 percent), and are more divided on his execution of the policies (36 percent like the way he is executing his policy and 24 percent do not like the way he is executing it). Overall, by a 83 percent majority, American Jews support active U.S. leadership to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and 71 percent support active U.S. leadership even if it means public disagreements with Israelis and Arabs. Another important finding of this poll is that almost 70 percent of American Jews believe Israel should temporarily suspend all or some new construction in the West Bank.

Schakowsky's message to J Street in the post election Tele-Townhall was that her focus was on practicing Jewish values of fairness and addressing inequality and poverty. She knows she stands strongly in the Jewish mainstream, and she's ready to get back to work.

The November 4 Tele-Townhall also announced early registration for J Street's 2011 national conference "Giving Voice to Our Values" to be held February 26–March 1, in Washington D.C. J Street Ann Arbor committed to sending at least 20 constituents to the conference and to meetings on Capitol Hill. ■

Survey results on the American Jewish vote

How did American Jews vote? Did partisan and neoconservative attacks over Israel work? How do American Jews feels about President Obama and his Middle East policies? About a two-state solution?

Here are some of the results of a survey done on the 2010 Jewish Vote:

- American Jews stood strong in the face of a conservative tidal wave and remained a rock-solid progressive and liberal constituency. They identify 3–1 as Democrats and 66 percent voted Democratic.
- American Jews have strongly unfavorable feelings toward the Tea Party (71 percent unfavorable), Glenn Beck (67 percent), Sarah Palin (78 percent) and the Republican Party (70 percent).
- Sixty-one percent of American Jews have a favorable view of President Obama, despite constant reports to the contrary.
- Seventy-one percent of American Jews support the US playing an active role in resolving the conflict, even if it means publicly disagreeing with both the Israelis and the Arabs, despite two years of constant right-wing attacks on the President's policy in the Middle East.
- When asked what two issues are most important in deciding how to vote, only 7 percent of Jewish voters choose Israel, placing the issues in a tie for eighth with the environment.
- The issues that are important to them are the same as those that matter to other American voters: the economy (62 percent), health care (31 percent), the deficit and government spending (18 percent) and education (12 percent).

Sources: National Survey of American Jewish Voters (November 2, 2010), Survey of PA Jewish Voters (November 2, 2010), Survey of IL-09 Jewish Voters (October 21-24, 2010) Conducted by Gerstein | Agne Strategic Communications Full Results Available at http://2010.jstreet.org

Elections, continued from previous page

Cantor in a pre-election interview told JTA that $500 million in spending for the Palestinian Authority would be subject to new scrutiny, and could depend on recognition of Israel as a Jewish state.

In the House, four Jewish Democrats were defeated: Reps. Alan Grayson and Ron Klein of Florida, Steve Kagen of Wisconsin and John Adler of New Jersey. Grayson, who won in 2008 against an incumbent weakened by a strong primary challenge, represents a district that encompasses Orlando and leans Republican. Since his election he had emerged as one of the nation's most outspoken critics of the Republicans, accusing the party of wanting the uninsured to die. Outside groups poured money into negative campaign ads taking aim at Grayson.

Klein, swept in with the Democratic majority in 2006, lost a swing seat to Allen West, an Iraq War veteran. Klein was a leader on pro-Israel issues, particularly related to Iran sanctions.

Rep. Paul Hodes (D-N.H.) lost his bid to win his state's open U.S. Senate seat; so did another Jewish Democrat, Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher.

Jews did pick up a few seats. Richard Blumenthal, the Connecticut attorney general and a Democrat, won the Senate race to succeed retiring Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.). Democrat David Cicilline, the mayor of Providence, R.I., won the House race to succeed Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-R.I.), who also is retiring. Cicilline brings to three the number of openly gay Jewish lawmakers on Capitol Hill, joining Frank and Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.).

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.) appeared set to keep her Tucson area seat. Giffords, married to Mark Kelly, the first astronaut to join his twin, Scott, on a space station, beat back a challenge in part by distancing herself from Obama's more liberal immigration policies.

Pro-Israel money helped incumbent friends of Israel pull off narrow victories. Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the majority leader, rallied against tough challenges, as did Bennet and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.). All four had been targeted for assistance by pro-Israel fund-raisers.

So had Democrat Jack Conway, who faced Paul in Kentucky in a race so bitter that Paul refused to mention Conway in his victory speech. Paul, whose father, Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas), is a noted isolationist, kept pro-Israel groups at arm's length during his campaign.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), ousted by Tea Partier Joe Miller, appeared to be on her way to keeping her seat in a historic write-in campaign—one backed by NORPAC, one of the largest pro-Israel political action committees, in a last-minute fund-raising appeal.

J Street, the "pro-peace, pro-Israel" lobbying group, scored 0 for 3 in its Senate endorsements but appeared to do relatively well in its 58 House endorsements. The question is whether those successes will help push back a full-frontal campaign by groups like the Emergency Committee for Israel and the Republican Jewish Coalition to depict J Street associations as poison at the polls.

J Street's endorsee in the signature race for Pennsylvania's open U.S. Senate seat, Democrat Joe Sestak, lost to Republican Pat Toomey—but by a razor-thin margin.

Jewish groups also are watching closely how this election will impact social issues. For example, the Reform movement, among other groups, supports a repeal of the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy on gay members of the military. With conservatives in Iowa ousting three judges who ruled gay marriage constitutional in a rare recall election, such initiatives may be headed for deep freeze.

Jews won a number of statewide races. : Steve Grossman, a former AIPAC president and Democratic Party chairman, and Josh Mandel, a Republican state legislator, Orthodox Jew and Iraq War veteran, won their races for Massachusetts and Ohio state treasurer, respectively. Also, Sam Olens, a Republican, was elected Georgia's attorney general. ■

Jewish members in the 112th U.S. Congress

NEW YORK (JTA)—The following is a list of the 39 Jewish members—12 senators and 27 representatives—who are expected to serve in the 112th U.S. Congress, which is set to convene in January:

U.S. SENATE

Michael Bennet (D-Colo.)**
Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)*
Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)**
Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.)
Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)
Al Franken (D-Minn.)
Herb Kohl (D-Wisc.)
Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.)
Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.)
Carl Levin (D-Mich.)
Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.)
Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.)**
Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.)
Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.)
Howard Berman (D-Calif.)
Eric Cantor (R-Va.)
David Cicilline (D-R.I.)*
Stephen Cohen (D-Tenn.)
Susan Davis (D-Calif.)
Ted Deutch (D-Fla.)
Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)
Bob Filner (D-Calif.)
Barney Frank (D-Mass.)
Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.)
Jane Harman (D-Calif.)
Steve Israel (D-N.Y.)
Sander Levin (D-Mich.)
Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)
Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.)
Jared Polis (D-Colo.)
Steve Rothman (D-N.J.)
Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.)
Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa.)
Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)
Brad Sherman (D-Calif.)
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.)
Henry Waxman (D-Calif.)
Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.)
John Yarmuth (D-Ky.)

** Elected to House or Senate for the first time in 2010 midterms*

*** Senators who were re-elected in 2010 midterms*

The Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies

Thursday, December 2, 12 noon
"Hebrew in The Crucible: Multilingual Voices in Israel Zangwill's 'The Melting Pot'"
Hana Wirth-Nesher, Tel Aviv University
Alumni Center, 200 Fletcher, Ann Arbor

Thursday, December 9, 12 noon
"Judezmo/Haketia (Ladino): A Language of Jewish Emotional Expression"
David Bunis, Hebrew University
Alumni Center, 200 Fletcher, Ann Arbor

All events are free and open to the public. Call 734.763.9047 or visit **www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic**.

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Elderlink – Visit with each of the Jewish residents at a senior living facility in Ann Arbor, helping them to maintain a connection with the Jewish community. 3-5 hour monthly time commitment and an appreciation of spending time with older adults needed.

Office Support – One half-day per week to maintain office supplies, literature, and other office organizational and administrative functions. Strong organizational skills and attention to detail needed.

Please contact **Deborah Renner**, at deborah@jfsannarbor.org, or at 734-769-0209 if you are interested in any of these volunteer positions.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Philly museum opens with stars, speeches and plenty of American nostalgia

By Deborah Hirsch

PHILADELPHIA (*Jewish Exponent*)—Her granddaughter at her elbow, 89-year-old Ruth Sarner-Libros walked slowly through the fourth floor of the National Museum of American Jewish History, drinking in every display.

Flashing a broad smile, Sarner-Libros said it was beyond anything she had imagined when she hosted the museum's first board meeting back in 1974. It took two years to open the modest collection in a small space adjoining the historic Congregation Mikveh Israel in the Old City section of downtown Philadelphia.

Now, after a decade-long, $150 million campaign, those artifacts have been elevated to a sparkling new 100,000-square-foot home less than a block away in the heart of the city's Independence Mall.

"It's such a significant location, the exhibits are so impressive, the whole way it's put together, it's just an overwhelming experience to see a dream come true," said Sarner-Libros, the board president emerita, "to have a child of my imagination become a reality."

In honor of the accomplishment, hundreds of people, many of them donors, joined Sarner-Libros in a weekend of celebration last month headlined by Vice President Joe Biden, comedian Jerry Seinfeld and entertainer Bette Midler.

Founding members jump-started the festivities on Friday morning with discussions of the museum's architecture and how freedoms of the Jewish people have changed throughout American history.

The next night, about 1,000 local and national supporters, stars and dignitaries gathered for a gala in a mammoth tent that spanned the block of Fifth Street just outside the building.

Despite the steep admission—individual tickets cost from $1,500 to $5,000—the museum couldn't accommodate about 200 would-be revelers.

Seinfeld emceed the swanky kosher dinner. The crowd ate up his Jewish-tailored shtick as he joked about everything from his mother who couldn't figure out a cell phone to the undignified nature of bathroom stalls.

As Midler took the stage, she jokingly wondered why the museum was located in Philadelphia rather than New York, where she quipped that "there are more Jews in my building than in this town."

Her performance, characteristically peppered with humor and profanity, was clearly tailored to the theme of the night. She sang only songs written by Jewish artists, beginning with her signature "Friends" and ending with Irving Berlin's "God Bless America."

Barbra Streisand created a buzz as an attendee, but she neither spoke nor sang. Instead, she sat front and center with her husband, James Brolin, with security guards nearby to keep away fans.

One of 18 individuals highlighted in the museum's Only in America Gallery/Hall of Fame, which greets visitors on the first floor, Streisand made time to stop in the museum's shop, where she spent $800 on three *yads* (Torah pointers) and silver candlesticks.

Meanwhile, in the museum's designated event space on the fifth floor, roughly 850 "young friends" bobbed along to a cover band on a chic white dance floor. Color-changing lights reflected on white fabric draped around the room.

"The amount of energy you feel here right now is incredible," said Lindsey Morgan, 35, a mother of two who also helps her husband with his real estate lending company. "It's like an unspoken thing how this evening means so much to our heritage. This is one of the most exciting things to happen to the city ever."

The next day, a chorus of about 50 *shofar* blowers heralded the start of the official dedication ceremony. Nearly 2,000 people gathered on the mall in front of the museum, basking in the unseasonably warm Sunday afternoon.

Biden echoed that sentiment, saying that although the museum focuses on the Jewish people, "they're American stories above all else. I can think of no other city that would be a fitting showcase for them."

Other speakers included George Ross, co-chair of the board of trustees and chairman of the capital campaign; Pennsylvania's outgoing governor, Ed Rendell, and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter.

Following the ceremony, the museum opened to members of the public who had reserved free timed tickets. Donors and supporters streamed into the halls, dragging confetti from the damp lawn on their shoes. Some came from as far as Cleveland and Seattle to see material they had provided for the exhibits.

Others, like Anitta Boyko Fox, made the nearly two-hour trip from North Jersey to see their familiar immigrant stories reflected in the exhibits.

"It really hit home because I came here when I was 13, and all these years you don't have time to think, and all of a sudden you get to be 86," Fox said, chuckling softly.

Inspired by the collection, Fox took advantage of the storytelling studio at the museum, where guests can record their histories for its archives. She spoke about growing up in Vienna and how an empathetic superintendent saved her family by warning them to hide in the dark when the Nazis first overran the city.

"All night long we heard the screaming and the crying, and the next day all the Jews were gone," Fox said, her voice trembling. "Our door was the only one that wasn't marked with a J."

Bronya Vygodskaya, a law firm administrator from Brooklyn, also knows what it feels like to experience anti-Semitism. In Russia, she was fired from her job teaching English in college "because I was a Jew. They officially told me that."

Experiencing hatred for being Jewish, she said, makes it even more important to preserve that identity. That's why the new museum means so much, she explained.

"This woman," she said, gesturing at a photograph of an immigrant, "looks like my grandmother, you know?"

At every corner, docents called to visitors to make sure they didn't miss a particularly interesting artifact—a telegram about the planned annihilation of the Jews during World War II or passports from immigrants who came through Ellis Island. Mixed in the maze of information were laminated sheets of Hebrew and Yiddish newspapers to pick up and Old World clothes for kids to try on.

"I have to come back at least another dozen times so I can soak it all in," said Catherine Camlin, 54, of nearby Cherry Hill, N.J. "It's very, it's very …" she trailed off, patting her hand over her heart. "It makes you want to trace your roots back, too."

Her friend, Louis Seiden, 62, of Cinnaminson, N.J., said he hoped the museum would show the non-Jewish world what Jews accomplished in America.

Attracting those visitors will be a challenge, but "if nothing else, something like this will bring people in," said Joe Albert, gesturing toward the piano that songwriter Irving Berlin once used.

"This is really something, this is not what I would've imagined," said Albert, state commander for the Jewish War Veterans, Department of Pennsylvania. "And look, a Yiddish typewriter?"

A small crowd congregated in the last exhibit, which invited visitors to post responses to questions lining the circular room: Should religion play a role in America politics? Are Jews white?

"Our religion is based on the constant questioning of things, so I think it's brilliant that they created this space for people to think and question," said University of Delaware freshman Jessie Leider, 18, as she posted her opinion on why intermarriage was a threat to religious communities.

"It's an ongoing religion," Leider said. "It's not just the history. It's the future of our people."

The museum officially opened to the public on November 26. ■

Jewish Exponent *Executive Editor Lisa Hostein contributed to this report.*

Whither the Jewish baby boomers?

By Sue Fishkoff

NEW ORLEANS, La. (JTA)—As America's 77 million baby boomers retire, they will place an unprecedented burden on the Jewish community's infrastructure.

They will need more services, and many will want to become involved in a community that isn't making room for them.

The federation system in particular needs to meet the challenge—and now, as the oldest boomers turn 65 next year—or face losing the wealthiest and most highly educated generation in American Jewish history.

Those are two salient results of a study presented last month at the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America titled "Baby Boomers, Public Service and Minority Communities: A Case Study of the Jewish Community in the United States."

The report, a joint effort by New York University's Berman Jewish Policy Archive and the university's Research Center for Leadership in Action, analyzed a national survey of more than 6,500 Jewish baby boomers—those born between 1948 and 1964—in 34 U.S. communities.

Jewish baby boomers expect to work after retirement age, want that work to be meaningful and want it to help others, but are not necessarily committed to working within the Jewish community, the report found. Boomers represent 50 percent of affiliated Jews in the United States—a major loss if they disappear.

"Even affiliated and involved Jews will look elsewhere if the meaning they seek is not available within the Jewish community," said David Elcott, the Taub professor of public service at NYU's graduate school and author of the report.

While most Jewish boomers plan to work or volunteer in an "encore" career after retiring, the survey showed that 35 percent aren't sure what kind of work they want to do, and 42 percent expect to get paid for it. The Jewish community is used to relying on its older population to volunteer, Elcott said. Not only that, but just over a third of boomers surveyed said they "want to help other Jews" in their encore career, and just 14 percent look at the new career as a way of expressing their Jewish identity.

Nearly 86 percent of those hoping to perform public service work would like to work through a Jewish organization, the survey showed, but that does not mean they are committed to helping Jews, Elcott noted. They could just as well be building homes in New Orleans or doing literacy training in inner cities.

If Jewish organizations cannot provide meaningful outlets, Elcott cautioned, they will look elsewhere. "This is the first generation for whom it will be as natural to work with the YMCA as with a Jewish organization," he said. "We are not prepared for that. We're prepared for it from our 30-year-olds, but not from this middle generation."

The federation system and other Jewish communal structures have been putting much of their funding and emphasis into programs for Jewish youth and children, with some attention to the very elderly. But for the most part they have ignored or taken for granted the needs of the generation in its mid-40s to early 60s.

Some federations are beginning to reach out to boomers in a concerted way.

JBoomers, a grass-roots nonprofit created to advocate for boomers within the Jewish community, planned to launch November 21.

Linda Blumberg, planning director for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, told the GA audience that her federation and Jewish Family Services agency are seeing increased numbers of boomers seeking their help.

American Jews over age 50 are losing their jobs and coming to the federation for help paying mortgages, accessing health care and training for jobs in new sectors, she said. Blumberg noted that many were former donors who are no longer able or willing to give—at least not at previous levels.

The Detroit federation has created a number of programs to help these adults. Women to Work provides job training for women who have never been in the workforce but whose husbands are now unemployed. Prime Time helps those over 50 prepare for a second career and acquire necessary computer skills, as well as estate planning and medical care.

"Federations are certainly interested in increasing their donor base, and are looking for ways to engage baby boomers as volunteers, too," Blumberg said, noting that a number of boomers have been recruited to serve on committees, plan these initiatives and even provide the pro-bono professional services that their colleagues now need to access, from medical care to legal advice.

It is well known that federations are trying to engage and train young leaders, but this year for the first time the Detroit federation started a leadership training program for boomers to bring them into the federation system as planners and other agency personnel.

"We are looking for opportunities that speak to them, where they can give back to the community and make a difference," Blumberg said. "Federations around the country haven't really developed a comprehensive approach" to the problem.

"If we lose this generation," she said, "we lose their children and grandchildren." ■

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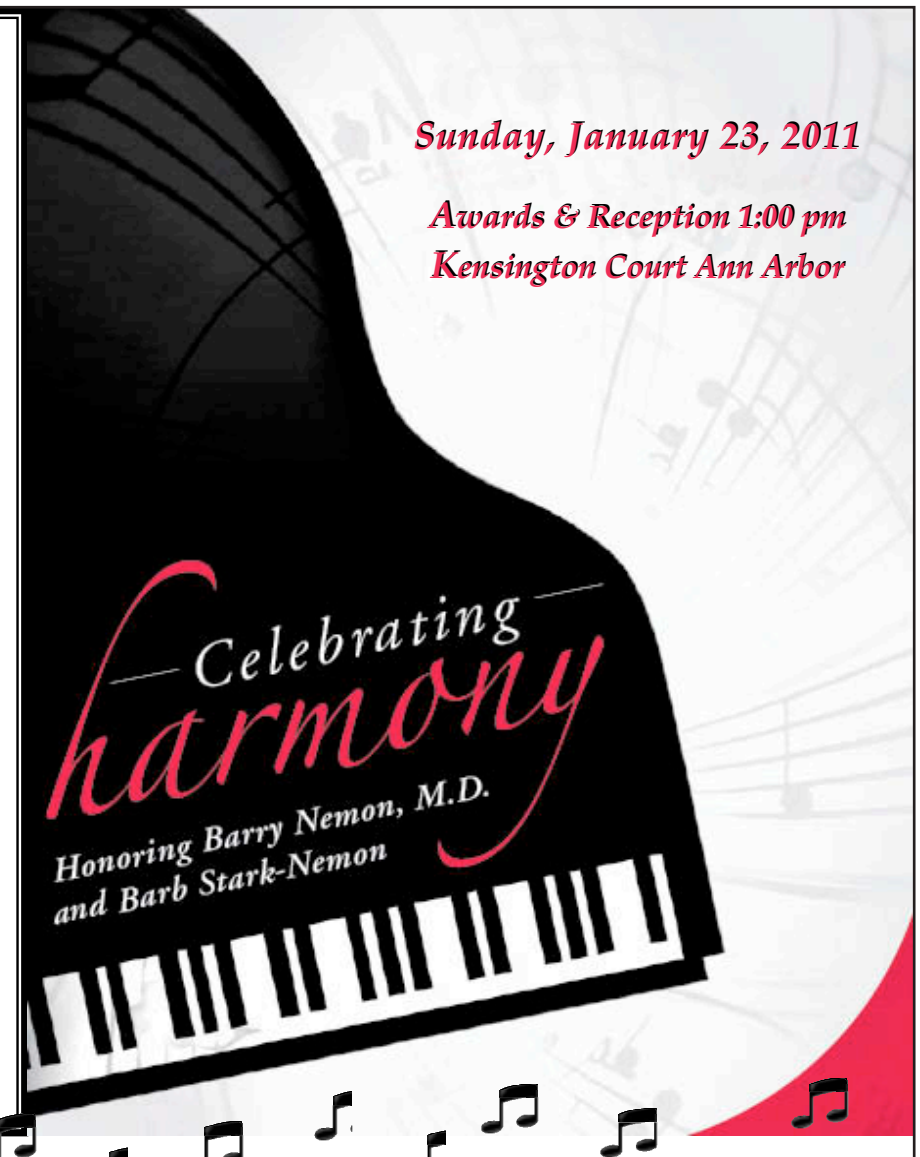

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Tablet

A NEW READ ON JEWISH LIFE

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Israel OKs another 8,000 Ethiopian immigrants– but these may be the last

By Uriel Heilman

NEW YORK (JTA)—The decision last month by Israel's Cabinet to bring as many as 8,000 additional Ethiopians to Israel over the next four years and then close the door on mass Ethiopian aliyah has a familiar ring to it.

That's because it has happened several times before. In 1991, 1998 and 2008, Israel declared an end to mass Ethiopian immigration, only to reopen the gates after intense lobbying and pressure by advocates for Ethiopian aliyah.

In November, again after dogged lobbying by advocates—including a former president of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, or NACOEJ; a former Israeli Supreme Court justice; Israel's Sephardic chief rabbi; a former Canadian justice minister; and myriad other figures inside and outside the Israeli government—the Israeli Cabinet again voted to expand Ethiopian aliyah.

This time, however, it'll be different, promised one of the main advocates for the aliyah, Joseph Feit, the former president of NACOEJ. His New York-based organization advocates for Ethiopian aliyah and runs aid compounds in the Ethiopian city of Gondar that provide some food, schooling and jobs to the would-be immigrants to Israel.

"Everybody's working in cooperative mode," Feit said in an interview from Israel a day after the Israeli Cabinet voted to expand by as many as 7,846 the number of additional Ethiopians who will be allowed to immigrate to Israel under special criteria established for the so-called Falash Mura—Ethiopians who claim links to descendants of Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity generations ago, but who now are returning to Jewish practice.

What's different this time, Feit said, is that NACOEJ has agreed to withdraw from Ethiopia and cease all aliyah advocacy if the additional Ethiopians are brought to Israel in accordance with the government decision at the rate of 200 per month.

Under the agreement, NACOEJ will turn over operation of its aid compounds in Ethiopia to the Jewish Agency for Israel three months after the aliyah begins, and NACOEJ will end all its activity in Ethiopia and aliyah advocacy once those among the 8,000 who meet Israel's criteria for aliyah are brought to the Jewish state.

It's not the first time such an agreement has been reached. An identical deal was proposed in 2003 and signed in 2005, and since then thousands of Ethiopians have been brought to Israel and been made citizens.

NACOEJ did not cease its aliyah advocacy, however; Feit said it wa s because the 2005 agreement was never implemented. He said The Jewish Agency never took over the aid compounds, and the Israeli government dragged its feet on bringing the Ethiopians, stretching out the aliyah for years in fits and starts.

In addition, Feit said, several thousand Ethiopians who were supposed to be considered for aliyah were never included in the immigration. Adjusting for natural growth, those are the 8,000 or so Ethiopians currently in Gondar seeking to make aliyah, he said.

"The numbers have not changed," Feit said. "These are the people left over after artificial caps." But a former Jewish Agency official who headed aliyah operations in Ethiopia for four years disputes that notion. Ori Konforti said the numbers are constantly changing in a ruse to keep Ethiopian aliyah going as long as possible.

Rather than capping Ethiopian aliyah, the government's decision this week actually sets a dangerous precedent by potentially opening the doors to even more Ethiopian immigration because it dramatically eases the criteria Ethiopian petitioners must meet to qualify for Israeli citizenship, Konforti said.

For the first time, an Israeli government will be allowing Ethiopians to apply for aliyah who were not counted in the Efrati Census of 1999—a tally of would-be Ethiopian immigrants carried out by a former director of Israel's Population Registry, David Efrati.

"It's a recipe for disaster," Konforti said. "Half of Ethiopia has relatives in Israel."

Until now, any Ethiopian seeking to immigrate under the special criteria for Falash Mura had to be on the Efrati list. Now, however, Ethiopian petitioners who were not on the list but have Jewish lineage on their mother's side will qualify for aliyah.

Rabbi Menachem Waldman, director of the Shvut Am Institute, which is involved with Ethiopian aliyah and preparing the immigrants for conversion to Judaism, said that in all likelihood no more than 6,500 additional Ethiopians will come to Israel as a result of this week's decision. That number represents those who qualify for aliyah but were not counted on the Efrati Census because they were in rural villages where the census tally was imprecise.

"We said all these years that there were a certain number that were not in the census," Waldman told JTA. He estimated the number of Falash Mura villagers who were not counted by the Efrati Census at about 5,000. The figure of 8,000, he said, includes those villagers who migrated to Gondar between 2003 and 2007 and people from the Efrati Census whom the Israeli government mistakenly failed to verify for aliyah eligibility, plus natural growth due to births and marriages.

"With this decision, I think the government went to the maximum," Efrati, who conducted the original census, told JTA this week. The 8,000 figure, he said, was the maximum number agreed upon by Ethiopian families in Israel, public figures, advocacy groups, their American Jewish sponsors, the Israeli government and the Ethiopian government.

That doesn't mean there aren't others in Ethiopia—a country of 88 million whose population believes it is the product of the offspring of an illicit union 3,000 years ago between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba—who may be eligible to make aliyah, Waldman acknowledged. "In the villages, not all the censuses were precise," Waldman said. "I think there are more in Gojam," a rural Ethiopian province. "But we took a decision in 2007 that we were closing the list at 8,700 to send a message to the Israeli government that we are advocating to bring only those who abandoned their homes, came to Gondar and are living as Jews. Someone who lives in his village and goes to church on Sunday morning and merely has Jewish lineage—I never advocated for him."

Any Ethiopian who can prove eligibility for aliyah under the standards of the Law of Return—practically impossible for the Falash Mura—may immigrate to Israel regardless of this decision. The question at the heart of the dispute over the aliyah of the Falash Mura is how many remain in Ethiopia, and therefore whether the aliyah will ever end.

Opponents claim the number changes constantly because Ethiopians desperate to escape Africa's poverty for Israel's comforts are manipulating the immigration system. Advocates claim the numbers have changed only due to natural growth and to earlier Israeli government mistakes in counting the Ethiopians.

They say a combination of factors will help make sure that this time the Ethiopian aliyah ends for real: the Israeli government and the advocates agreed on a cap; to be eligible, would-petitioners had to have moved to Gondar by 2007, so newcomers cannot be added; the advocates have agreed to cede operations in Ethiopia to The Jewish Agency, which will shut down the aid facilities and school once the eligible petitioners are brought to Israel; and the Ethiopian government does not want mass emigration to continue beyond these agreed-upon 8,000.

"All the parties dealing with this subject for 20 years were active in reaching this consensus," Waldman said. "The list is closed." ■

In the war on breast cancer, Israel leads

By Dina Kraft

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Irit Paneth, in and out of remission from breast cancer for more than a decade, was among the thousands who wound their way like a giant pink-and-white ribbon through Jerusalem's streets in the first Susan G. Komen Foundation's Race for the Cure held in Israel.

"What's important here is to raise awareness," Paneth said during the October 28 march, wearing the pink T-shirt reserved for breast cancer survivors.

The shirts are a signature of the Komen foundation, which has become the global leader in the war against breast cancer and co-sponsored the event with Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and the city of Jerusalem.

The route of the 5-kilometer race that ended in the valley of Ben Hinom, in the shadow of Jerusalem's Old City walls, tread on especially fertile ground: Israel has one of the highest breast cancer rates in the world. It's the most prevalent disease among Israeli women, with about 4,000 diagnosed every year.

Genetics are partially to blame. Ashkenazi Jews are 10 times more likely than the general population to carry the BRCA genes, mutations that often lead to breast cancer. Iraqi Jews also carry the genes in higher numbers.

Meanwhile, the number of cases has risen among Arab Israeli women, for whom the disease once was rarely found.

New studies show that Israeli women have nearly a one in seven chance of developing breast cancer; in the United States it's closer to one in eight.

Beyond the bleak numbers, there is some positive news out of Israel concerning breast cancer: The country is a world leader in survival rates and cutting-edge research. One of the two BRCA gene mutations was discovered as part of a collaboration that included Tamar Peretz, the director of Hadassah Medical Center's oncology department.

Israel has become a model for other countries. Hospitals offer targeted therapies for specific types of tumors based on in-house and international research as well as holistic treatments—including psychologists trained to counsel cancer patients and their families. The national health system provides free mammogram screening for those over 50 or considered a high risk for the cancer. Some women from around the world come to Israel for treatment.

With about 70 percent of Israeli women diagnosed at an early stage, survival rates are over 90 percent, according to Miri Ziv, director of the Israel Cancer Association. This year, she said, new breast cancer cases were reported to be on the decline.

Outreach to communities that in the past may have missed out on detection has been improved with the help of the Israel Cancer Association's mobile mammogram clinic, which travels throughout the country.

Other organizations reach out to haredi Orthodox, Arab and Russian immigrant communities to help ensure they get screenings. Among the haredi and Arab populations the problem is especially acute because of cultural taboos that make discussion of the disease, let alone treatment, difficult.

Israelis and Palestinians are cooperating in the breast cancer battle. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Israel office has worked with a Palestinian nonprofit organization to create support groups for women diagnosed in Gaza and the West Bank. Israeli oncologists from Hadassah and their Palestinian counterparts at Augusta Victoria in eastern Jerusalem consult with one another and visit each other's patients.

During last month's Komen race, secular and religious Jewish women could be seen walking alongside Druze and Arab women.

Nancy Brinker, who founded the Komen Foundation in 1982 after her sister's death from breast cancer, told JTA that she was excited about bringing the race to Israel.

"I'm Jewish and I have the BRCA gene, and my sister probably did as well," she said.

Brinker's recently published memoir, "Promise Me: How a Sister's Love Launched the Global Movement to End Breast Cancer," tells the story of the promise she made in 1980 to her older sister, Susan G. Komen, then 36 and dying of cancer, to do all she could to eradicate breast cancer. Since its founding, the organization has raised $1.5 billion for research, treatment and awareness.

"We look at regions very carefully and decide where we can help people make giant steps forward in any points of our mission," Brinker said. "We've put almost $40 million into 50 different countries, and Israel is an important part of our global community."

Over the years, the Komen Foundation has given more than $2 million in research grants to Israeli scientists. Research the organization helped fund at the Weizmann Institute contributed to the development of Herceptin, one of the first breast cancer drugs on the market.

Given the Jewish genetic dimension to the disease, Israel also is playing a leading role in genetic research.

Ephrat Levy-Lahad, who heads the Jerusalem Shaare Zedek Medical Center's department

continued on page 34

News Analysis: Palestinian gambit for statehood puts Israel against wall

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA)—With talks at a stalemate and no agreement from the Israelis to reinstate a settlement freeze, the Palestinians are playing a new card: an end game to statehood through an appeal to the international community.

The card hasn't actually been played, but the mere threat that the Palestinians would push for international recognition of a state from the United Nations has been enough to push the Israeli government to reconsider options to return to the negotiating table.

Last month, partly to pre-empt a Palestinian move toward statehood that would bypass negotiations with Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he is working intensively with the Obama administration on a formula to restart the stalled peace process.

"We are in close contact with the American administration with the aim of restarting the peace process," Netanyahu said at his weekly Cabinet meeting. "Our aim is not only to renew the process, but to renew it in such a way that it won't collapse in a few weeks or in two months, but that we will go into a full year of serious negotiations on the core issues in an effort to reach a framework agreement on the way to a peace deal.

"Any attempt by the Palestinians to circumvent this process by going to international organizations," he said, "is not realistic, and will not in any way advance a genuine peace process."

Israeli, Palestinian and U.S. leaders all say publicly that a negotiated peace deal is much preferred to unilateral steps that could spark a sharp response from the other side. But the Palestinians warn that if the direct peace talks remain on hold, they will consider approaching international bodies for recognition of a Palestinian state along the 1967 borders with eastern Jerusalem as its capital.

It isn't clear whether this is merely a tactic to frighten Israel back to the peace table—talks that were renewed in early September broke down four weeks later over Israel's refusal to extend a building freeze in the West Bank—or part of a new strategy aimed at achieving a better deal for the Palestinians through the international community.

Either way, given Israel's precarious position on the international stage and the lack of international support for its West Bank settlement construction policy, the Palestinian threat carries weight and is being taken very seriously in Jerusalem.

Much depends on the American stand, which gives the Obama administration added leverage over Israel.

The new Palestinian thinking has been evolving over the past few years and is based on two key principles: winning enhanced international support for Palestinian goals and, in parallel, building the institutions of a functioning Palestinian state from the bottom up.

The idea is that if the American-mediated peace process with Israel proves fruitless, the Palestinians can invoke Plan B: Gaining the world's approval for an already functioning Palestinian state, on conditions favorable to the Palestinians, at a time of their choosing.

With Palestinian confidence in the Israeli government on the wane and Israel's international standing in decline, Plan B has emerged as a genuine threat to Israel.

Last week, the Palestinians made their first significant move for recognition as a state by approaching the International Criminal Court at The Hague to urge recognition of the Palestinian Authority as the equivalent of a full-fledged state government. That designation would enable the Palestinian Authority to press war crimes charges against Israel for its conduct in the 2008-09 Gaza War because only states have standing before the court.

Recognition of the Palestinian Authority by the international court not only would open a crack for the possible prosecution of Israeli civilian and military leaders, it also would hand the Palestinians a major PR victory in their quest for internationally recognized statehood. The Palestinians would be able to cite the court's recognition as legal backing for their case for a state.

Last month the court's prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo of Argentina, heard arguments from legal experts, backed up by nongovernmental organizations, from both sides. The Israeli side argued that the Palestinian Authority is not a state and therefore cannot claim standing before the court, and that in any event, the court is not empowered to prosecute a state like Israel, which has effective and credible legal mechanisms for dealing with suspected war crimes.

A decision is not expected for several weeks.

If the Palestinians do press ahead in earnest with Plan B, the United Nations will be the main battleground. Given the certain backing for a Palestinian state by the non-aligned and Muslim states, the Palestinians easily would be able to secure a majority in the General Assembly—the same body that granted Israel international recognition in November 1947 by a vote of 33 to 13.

But the Palestinians want more than mere recognition: They want a binding allocation of territory based on the 1967 borders. For that they will likely seek a resolution from the U.N. Security Council, whose votes are binding. Such an effort likely would be blocked by the United States, which has veto power in that body. Therefore, for such a gambit to work, it would need to have the backing of the Obama administration. That's unlikely.

In the run-up to a crucial Arab League meeting in early November that will discuss the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, PA President Mahmoud Abbas has been canvassing Arab leaders on his U.N. strategy.

The Palestinians see an important convergence in early November of key events for the future of the peace process: the Arab League meeting and the U.S. midterm elections. They believe that after the midterm elections, President Obama will have a freer hand to deal with Israel and will press Israel to return to the negotiating table on the Palestinians' terms to head off any U.N. strategy.

For Israel this constitutes a major headache. The Netanyahu government fears that many countries, including the Europeans, would go along with the Palestinians and recognize a Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 border between Israel and Jordan.

If Israel remains in control of large swaths of the West Bank after a Palestinian state is declared and recognized, even if it's just in the General Assembly, it would further sink Israel's international reputation and provide additional fodder for the campaign to delegitimize Israel.

"The Palestinians will declare a state. Virtually the whole world will recognize it. And we will be left without security arrangements," Israeli Trade and Industry Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said Monday.

Israel's response to the challenge has been a combination of defiance and diplomacy. "Like Ben-Gurion, Netanyahu will not allow the United Nations, or any other organization, to dictate our borders," Israel's U.S. ambassador, Michael Oren, said last Friday. "They will be determined through negotiations."

Privately, some Israeli Cabinet ministers have been proposing unilateral Israeli responses, such as Israeli annexation of a significant part of the West Bank or redeploying inside the large settlement blocs to create a de facto border along Israeli terms. Behind the scenes, Israeli diplomats have been warning their colleagues in Washington and Europe that if the Palestinians act on the U.N. strategy, the current peace process, and the Oslo process on which it is based, would be over.

For now, however, Israel is focusing its efforts on putting direct Israeli-Palestinian peace talks back on track and undercutting the Palestinians' U.N. strategy. Netanyahu's special envoy, Yitzhak Molcho, is in Washington this week working with his American counterparts on the details.

"Peace will only be achieved through direct negotiations," Netanyahu said, "and I hope we will return to this avenue in full force very soon." ■

Israel under the radar: Bibi's wheels, two ladies dancing, 007

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Here are some recent stories from Israel that you may have missed:

Bibi's million-dollar ride

Few luxury cars come with an anti-grenade defense system or bulletproof tires, nor other serious security features such as a bulletproof armored cabin and an automated fire extinguishing system. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new official car, an Audi A8, has all of them, plus one more thing: a $1 million price tag.The car also has a wide-screen DVD screen, a refrigerator and a humidor for cigars, according to reports, plus more mundane luxury items like a sun roof and leather interio Its 12-cylinder, 6-liter engine, with 450 horsepower, is the largest made by Audi for the A8. The car weighs in at nearly three tons. Two more of the cars have been ordered to round out the prime minister's convoy. Netanyahu's current convoy includes armored Toyota Land Cruisers and Chevrolet Suburbans.

'Dancing' takes a step

Israel's "Dancing with the Stars" is kicking up its heels for a fifth season with same-sex partners for the first time. Television sportscaster Gili Shem Tov, a lesbian married to a woman with whom she has a son, is paired with professional dancer Dorit Milman, who wasn't aware that she had a female partner until Shem Tov walked into the studio for their first meeting.

"Because I share my life with a woman and have a family with her, to me this is the most natural thing to do," Shem Tov said during the introductory show last week.

"Dancing with the Stars," based on the British "Strictly Come Dancing" show, is the first of 35 versions broadcast in countries around the world to have same-sex partners. So who will lead? The women said on the first show that they would take turns.

Meanwhile, former "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson landed Sunday in Israel to serve as a guest judge. Anderson has asked Israeli politicians to support a bill that would ban the use of animal fur to make clothing in Israel. The bill has angered the haredi Orthodox parties, since many of their adherents wear the streimel, a sable-trimmed hat. Anderson has called on the politicians to view a graphic People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals video.

And the winning numbers are

A 10,000-to-1 event that occurred twice in one month has put some big bucks in the bank accounts of three Israelis, plus a bit of extra cash in the pockets of a handful of others. The six main numbers hit twice in Israel's state lottery in less than a month; the seventh strong number was different, however. Three players guessed the seven numbers correctly and each won more than $1 million. Some 95 others played the six base winning numbers in the second drawing, according to reports, each winning $1,116 to $1,831.

Gentlemen, start your engines

The popular British television show "Top Gear" raced into Israel to film an episode. Hosts Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May arrived recently from Iraq via Jordan driving a camouflage-colored car and another with a water pipe attached to the door. Paparazzi chased them through the hills on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The show also reportedly filmed in Nazareth and the Golan Heights. No one is saying whether the hosts managed to wreck a car, as they are fond of doing, during their visit to the land of aggressive drivers. The episode is set to be aired during the next season. "Top Gear" has hundreds of millions of viewers worldwide.

Diamonds are forever

Israeli police helped their Belgian counterparts crack a $1 million international diamond theft. Some of the diamonds, stolen by a worker from a diamond factory in Antwerp, were sold on the black market. A pickpocket in Paris ripped off the others from the thief. Earlier this year, a shipment of diamonds sent from Israel to New York turned out to be part of the stolen Antwerp diamonds.

Based on the information from New York, Israeli police were able to track down the member of the diamond exchange who sent the diamonds. In his home they found several more of the stolen diamonds, as well as documentation of the sale of some of the other stolen jewels.

For your eyes only

James Bond may be on his way to Israel after Israel and Britain signed an agreement to cooperate on filmmaking. The deal, which makes Israel a preferred filming location for British films, also will give British production companies financial incentives and tax benefits from the state to shoot in Israel, Ynet reported. British Foreign Minister William Hague signed the pact on a recent visit to Israel. Parts of the next Bond movie reportedly may be filmed in Israel. In addition, British filmmakers are considering producing two films about the British Mandate period in Israel, according to Ynet. ■

Ukulele master Gerald Ross

San Slomovits, staff writer

The ukulele is the musical embodiment of the old adage, "Good things come in small packages." Or, perhaps more accurately, "Good things come from small packages." Long familiar as a simple instrument, perfect for accompanying three chord folk songs—á la Burl Ives—or as a comic musical prop—think Tiny Tim—the ukulele also has a long history of virtuoso players in Hawaii and the mainland who have explored and exploited the potential of the instrument. In the past couple of decades another generation of master players have brought the instrument much more visibility and have elevated it to new musical heights. One of those masters is long time local musician, Gerald Ross.

Ross, (who I've profiled in these pages before) has been playing traditional American roots music on guitar for decades. (With occasional forays into other genres. I remember him in the late 1970s playing Mozart's "Rondo a la Turk" on solo guitar—no small feat—to accompany famed bones/percussionist Percy Danforth.) He's also accomplished on Cajun accordion and since 1997, on Hawaiian electric lap steel guitar. He's only been playing ukulele seriously since December of 2004, but he's clearly a very fast learner and has rapidly rocketed to the upper echelon of uke players nationally and even internationally, via the web. In the past few years he's played and taught at ukulele festivals from Portland to New York, from Chicago to Dallas. He has released several recordings of his ukulele and lap steel driven music and his latest is perhaps his most charming.

Mistletoe Mazel Tov is, of course, a holiday album. And, perhaps like you, I get pretty tired of hearing the same Chanukah and Christmas songs over and over every year, even, or perhaps especially, in the various (and sometimes weird) versions that come out every fall. In contrast, *Mistletoe Mazel Tov* is a very refreshing surprise. The minute I put it on our home CD player, my wife, daughter and I began to smile. Soon we were dancing along to the music and, though we had no mistletoe hanging… (Who needs the mistletoe excuse, anyway?)

The CD starts with one of the more bluesy, swinging versions of "Sevivon" I've ever heard, complete with a repeating descending bass line that brings to mind "Hit the Road, Jack." Ross' rendition rolls along beautifully and manages to simultaneously be both nimble and yet insistent.

The 65-year-old classic, "Let It Snow" is clearly not yet ready to be retired if Ross' solo ukulele arrangement is any indication. The motto of Ross' record company, UkeTone Records, is, "Four strings are plenty enough." No idle boast that. In the hands of a ukulele master like Ross, the instrument can assume almost orchestral dimensions and can provide melody, harmony and rhythm as capably as a guitar or piano.

And, if you know how, and Ross clearly does know how, the ukulele is also capable of a surprisingly wide range of tonal colors. Listen to the gorgeous bell-like sounds Ross gets on "Silver Bells."

"Late Night Latke Party" introduces Ross' considerable abilities on the Hawaiian lap steel guitar. The impeccably arranged tune, as all of them are on this disk, is a delicious mixture of guitar, tenor uke and the lap steel.

Ross says on the liner notes that he rewrote the bridge of "Go Tell It On The Mountain" because to him it sounded too much like Stephen Foster's "Oh! Susannah." Nice job, Gerald. The new bridge sounds good and does not sound like "Oh! Susannah." However, to me, the verse melody still sounds like "If I knew You Were Coming I'd Have Baked a Cake." Nevertheless, another clever, pleasing arrangement that helps us to freshly hear a familiar holiday earworm.

"Chanukah Oh Chanukah" has never sounded as good as it does here, and might be the first Dobro and ukulele version ever. Ross says on the liner notes, "Makes sense to me." Me too.

If I have one kvetch about this CD it's that it's too short. Or maybe it's just that time flies when you're having fun. More, Gerald, more! ■

To buy Mistletoe Mazel Tov, or any of Ross' previous CDs, visit www.geraldross.com.

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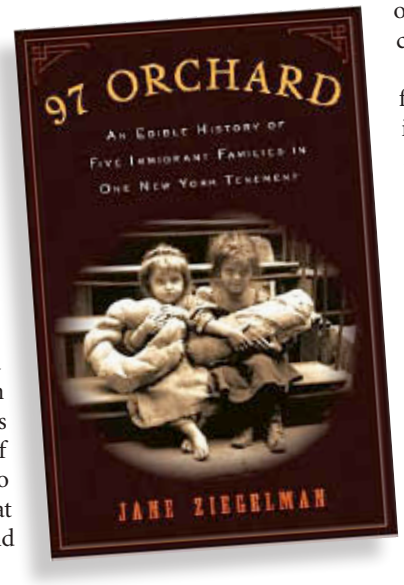
Schmaltzy history: A nostalgic look at fats for frying latkes

By Linda Morel

Fat may be a dirty word now, but we can chart the history of American Jews through the fats they've used to fry their Chanukah latkes. Early immigrants relied on goose fat, which was replaced by chicken fat, which was eclipsed by Crisco, which was replaced by olive and canola oils.

Latkes over time have been fried in all of these, says Jane Ziegelman, author of *97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement*. 97 Orchard St., a five-story brick structure, is the home of the New York Tenement Museum.



The book is a push-cart of information about what immigrants ate during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Two of the families Ziegelman profiled were Jewish.

From 1900 to 1910, more than 1 million Jews immigrated to the United States, mostly from modern-day Ukraine, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova and Belarus. Many of them settled in the tenements on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, crowding into unventilated apartments that lacked adequate kitchens and running water.

Ashkenazi homemakers there often obtained cooking oil by rendering or frying goose skin, which liquefied globules, large and small. This created a yellow oil called schmaltz, a succulent delicacy that was strained to separate the crispy and delicious skin from the fragrant fat.

"In the Lower East Side tenement kitchen, the luxuriousness of goose fat elevated the most prosaic ingredients," Ziegelman says in the book. "Potatoes, onions and fat—the Jewish cook explored every conceivable permutation of these three ingredients. The more fat, the fancier the dish. The most extravagant of all was latkes, potato pancakes, fried in sizzling pools of goose fat."

The Jewish cook also used goose fat for braising, enriching, moistening, seasoning and baking. She sometimes mixed it into pie crust and rugelach dough, making it possible to serve the pastries with meat meals. She fried onions in this fat and spread the dripping slices on rye bread.

Warming, satiny and with a faintly nutty aftertaste, goose fat imbued foods with a pleasing heaviness that's now considered a liability to dieters and the cholesterol conscious. But for our poor and calorie-deprived ancestors, goose fat was a virtue, enhancing kugels, cholent and tzimmes.

"Fat was considered a luxury to be cherished," Ziegelman said. "It was believed to be nutritious. Frying was a demonstration of wealth and bounty."

The height of decadence was frying latkes in goose fat, a cooking method that traveled here with Ashkenazim from the Old Country.

The 19th century Jewish homemaker brought her reliance on geese and its byproducts to the Lower East Side, where she continued her traditional role as a poultry farmer. She raised geese in tenement yards, basements, hallways and apartments, transplanting a rural industry to the heart of urban America -- much to the chagrin of sanitary inspectors.

"At Chanukah, goose was the centerpiece," Ziegelman said, explaining that goose farms were at their busiest at that time of the year.

Restaurants put up signs: Goose liver is here. This was a once-a-year gourmet treat on menus, something cherished by Ashkenazim.

But in the 20th century, as modern methods of chicken breeding improved, goose fat lost its place of prominence on the Jewish table. The smaller, more economical chicken, and its rendered fat, took the place of goose fat as the lard of choice among Jews.

Rendered chicken fat has the most incredibly delicious smell, unlike any other cooking aroma, Ziegelman said. Speaking with those over 60, she adds, they rave about the memory of the sizzling fat filling their childhood kitchens.

Latkes fried in rendered chicken fat made the Jews swoon, too. But poultry fat was diminished by the invention of scientifically engineered cooking fats derived from vegetables. The new hydrogenated fats had many brand names, such as Spry or Flake White.

But the most famous one was Crisco, a product introduced by Procter and Gamble in 1911. This non-Jewish company soon recognized the value of Crisco to kosher cooks. A pareve product, Crisco could be incorporated into both dairy and meat recipes. Many Jewish women began frying latkes in Crisco.

In 1933, Procter and Gamble published *Crisco Recipes for the Jewish Housewife*, a promotional cookbook available in English and Yiddish.

"It represented the demise of poultry fat as a Jewish staple, bringing to a close a millennium of culinary tradition," Ziegelman said.

Today's makers of latkes often rely on olive oil, canola oil, corn oil, peanut oil or other healthier fats. The thought of rendering poultry fat is not appealing to many home cooks.

Ziegelman, however, raves about the flavor of chicken fat, claiming everyone should try it at least once before passing judgment. She is planning to start baking with this lush golden fat.

"Chicken fat isn't one of the evil fats -- not like beef fat or butter," she said, explaining that it has about half the saturated fat as butter.

Registered dietitian Lisa Ellis agrees that chicken fat contains nearly half the amount of saturated fat when compared to butter. Surprisingly, chicken fat is also higher in monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats -- the healthier fats.

"While chicken fat is a better choice than butter, it still is an artery-clogging fat," said Ellis, who in her kosher home cooks primarily with olive and canola oils.

Ziegelman would agree that chicken fat is not in the same class as olive oil.

"But on a sliding scale, it's on the good side," she said. "This is the moment to bring back schmaltz." ■

Chicken schmaltz

Recipe developed by Linda Morel

5- to 6-pound chicken
(For a larger yield, ask your butcher for additional chicken skin and fat, which he is likely to have on hand, as many people now purchase skinless chicken.)

Cut off the chicken's wings and reserve. Slide a sharp knife under the skin on the breast and lift it. With your fingers, pull the skin from the meat. Tear off as much skin as possible in sheets. Place skin on a cutting board. Using the knife, cut away any remaining skin from crevices. Cut off clumps of yellow fat that stick to the meat and place it on the cutting board. (Use the skinned chicken and wings for other purposes, such as chicken soup.)

Cut sheets of skin and fat into 2-inch squares.

Place skin and fat in large deep pot, preferably non-stick. Heat on a medium-low flame, stirring often. Oil will begin oozing from the skin almost immediately. Reduce flame to low and fry for about an hour, until the fat globules melt entirely and there's nothing left of the skin except cracklings (called gribenes), which are incredibly delicious. Cool chicken fat to room temperature.

Set a fine sieve over a bowl. Pour schmaltz through the sieve. Use immediately or refrigerate for up to 2 days.

Yield: 1 cup of skin and fat from a 5- to 6-lb chicken, reduces to about 1/2 cup of schmaltz. Meat

Latkes the old-fashioned way

Recipe developed by Linda Morel

1 small onion
6 large baking potatoes
1 egg, beaten
2 tablespoons flour, more if needed
Kosher salt to taste
6 tablespoons schmaltz or olive oil (more if needed)

Finely chop onion and place in a large bowl.

Scrape skin from potatoes and rinse them under cold water. Pat dry on paper towels. Over a platter, grate potatoes on the coarse side (not the slicing side) of the box grater. To avoid cutting fingers or ruining your manicure, grate only one-half to two-thirds of each potato. Save the remainders for other purposes, such as soup or potato salad.

Place the grated potato in the bowl with the onion. Add the egg and mix contents together with a fork. Sprinkle in flour and mix again. Add a little more flour, if the batter is way too wet to stick together. (However, it will be a moist batter.)

Heat the schmaltz or olive oil in a large skillet on a medium flame. With your hands, form potato batter into pancakes 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Using your palms, flatten the pancakes and squeeze out any excess water that may have drained from the potatoes.

Place latkes in oil and fry until the bottom side browns. Flatten latkes with a spatula as they sizzle. Flip latkes and fry until the second side browns. Add more oil, if needed. Turn a couple more times, until the center is cooked through and the outside becomes dark brown and crunchy. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately.

Yield: About 16 latkes. Meat or Parve

Fried onion on rye bread

Recipe from *97 Orchard: An Edible History Of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement*, by Jane Ziegelman

1 yellow onion
4 tablespoons goose or chicken fat
2 slices of rye bread
Crushed black pepper, optional
1 hard-boiled egg, optional

Lightly saute 1 yellow onion, thinly sliced, in 4 tablespoons goose or chicken fat. Spread cooked onion on good rye bread. Season generously with crushed black pepper. For a more substantial snack, top with sliced hard-boiled egg.

Yield: 2 servings. Meat

Fried chicken livers

Recipe adapted from *97 Orchard*

1 pound chicken livers
1 cup seasoned bread crumbs
4 tablespoons schmaltz or vegetable oil (more if needed)

Rinse livers under cold water. Place on paper towels to drain. Cut off fat globules and discard. Slice large livers in half. Place bread crumbs on a plate a little at a time, as needed. Roll livers in bread crumbs.

Heat schmaltz or oil in a large skillet on a medium-low flame. Fry livers in oil until the bottom side turns golden brown. Should oil splatter, reduce flame.

Turn livers and fry the second side until livers turn golden brown. Do not overcook or livers dry out. Serve immediately.

Yield: 4 servings as an hors d'oeuvres. Meat

December 2010

Wednesday 1

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Chanukah Blowout: EMU Hillel. Cosponsored by AEPi and SAEPi. Food, drinks, latkes and more. Sticks Bar, 39 East Cross Street, Ypsilanti. RSVP through EMU Hillel Facebook page. 7–11 p.m.

Thursday 2

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, Noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Birthdays and Presentation: JCC-Seniors. Celebration for all with December birthdays. Family and friends invited for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. A representative from the Social Security Administration will present information and answer questions about Social Security and Medicare at 1 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. This month's selection is *Spinoza and Us: Toward an Intellectually Vibrant Judaism,* by Rabbi Marc Angel Maimonides. 7:30 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 3

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Chanukah Dinner: TBE. Latke dinner and Tot/Sukkat Shalom dinner. 6 p.m.

Chanukah Family Service: TBE. With Youth Choir and Middle School Instrumentalists. Bring your menorah and candles to the service. 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 4

Torah Study: TBE. With Rabbi Levy. No preparation necessary. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 9 a.m.

Saturday Morning Minyan: TBE. With Rabbi Lisa Delson. 9:30 a.m.

Community Chanukah Celebration: JCS. Activities for kids of all ages. Moon bounce, menorah construction, candle making, arts and crafts and lots of latkes. For information, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org. At the JCC from 10–Noon.

Latke Hop: JCC. Family Chanukah Celebration. Enjoy the new film from the *Shalom Sesame* series, *Chanukah: The Missing Menorah*, in which Grover celebrates Chanukah in Israel and ends up helping Anneliese search for her lost menorah. $12/adults; $5/children (members). $14/adults; $6/children (non-members). 5:30 p.m.

Bowling for Chanukah: TBE Twenties and Thirties. Bowling at Colonial Lanes, 1950 Industrial Highway. Two hours of bowling, with shoes, pizza and soft drinks included for $15. RSVP to Brett Willner at bwillner@templebethemeth.org or phone 665-4744. 6 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 5

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Chai'nukah Party: ORT. Featuring Chanukah music and food, a book exchange, and a talk by Dr. Karla Goldman on the changing role of women in American Judaism. Guests are asked to bring a gently used and genuinely-liked wrapped book for a book exchange. Community Room at Nature Cove Condominiums, 2115 Nature Court Court. $18/donation to ORT for admission. RSVP to Fran Martin at maizenblue@comcast.net. 2-4 p.m.

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad. Help build Ann Arbor's largest menorah from Legos, enjoy donuts, make crafts, play games, and more. For the whole family. Sponsor a bucket of Legos for $18. In the children's play area near JC Penney in the Briarwood Mall. For information, call 995-3276 or email chabad@jewmich.com. 3 p.m.

Chaverim B'Shirim Concert: JCC. The choir will perform music from Harold Rome's *I Can Get It For You Wholesale.* $5/suggested donation. 3 p.m.

Families with Young Children Chanukah Celebration: TBE. Activities for kids include crafts, menorah making, dreidles, and story time with Rabbi Levy. 4 p.m.

Latkepalooza: BIC. Chanukah extravaganza for all ages. 5 p.m.

Latke Party: Chabad. Enjoy authentic latke pancakes prepared by Simcha Sternberg and witness lighting of largest outdoor menorah of Washtenaw County. 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 6

Women's Torah Study: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose using *Women of Reform Judaism* Torah commentary. This week's portion is *Vayigash.* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 7

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

"Medicine and Morals: Your Jewish Guide Through Life's Tough Decisions:" Jewish Learning Institute. Fall semester course. Many people are faced with tough medical and ethical issues related to topics such as life support, genetic disorders, organ donation, and more. This course is based on three premises: today's complex medical issues are fascinating, profound, and likely to kick up lively classroom discussion; Jewish wisdom has much to say about such matters; and the best time to deal with issues is now, rather than when under pressure. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *Every Tuesday.*

Intergenerational Chanukah Celebration: JCC Seniors and JCC Early Childhood Center. Join the children, staff and families of the JCC Early Childhood Center for an intergenerational celebration including crafts, singing, dancing and lunch. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. This month's selection is *Spinoza and Us: Toward an Intellectually Vibrant Judaism,* by Rabbi Marc Angel Maimonides. Noon.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

"Gevalt!: The Last Minute Rescue of Modern Jewish Culture:" EMU Jewish Studies. Presentation by Aaron Lansky, who will discuss how he and a small group of other young people saved Yiddish books from extinction by collecting one and a half million volumes from attics, basements, demolition sites and dumpsters and by meeting the Yiddish-speaking immigrants who owned and read these books. Lansky is the founder of the National Yiddish Book Center, located in Amherst, Massachusetts. Event co-sponsored by EMU Academic Affairs, EMU College of Arts and Sciences and EMU Hillel. At Eastern Michigan University's Student Center Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 8

Pre-School Story Hour: TBE. With Wendy Holden for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. 10 a.m.

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch, snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Tot Chanukah Dinner: BIC. 5:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Includes learning, lively discussion, and a bit of fun. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman at rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 9

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. A nurse from Care Response will monitor blood pressures at 12:30 p.m. followed by "The Highs and Lows of Hypertension," presented by a Cheryl Bord, Certified Nurse Practitioner with the Women's Heart Program at the University of Michigan Hospital and Health System. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 10

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Tot and Sukkat Shalom Service and Dinner: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m.

Interfaith Perspective Series: BIC. Featuring Pastor Sue Sprowls from Lord of Light Lutheran Campus Ministry. 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 11

Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Followed by Morning Minyan at 9:30 a.m., led by Rabbi Delson.

New Mini Minyan: BIC. For K-2nd Graders. 11 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat: BIC. For 3rd–5th Graders. 11 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Kids' Night Out: JCC Youth. Featuring the entertaining movie, *Toy Story 3,* a pizza dinner, and lots of fun crafts and games. $20/members; $18/additional siblings. $25/non-members; $23/additional siblings. 6:30–10 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 12

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, plus an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Series: BIC. Siyyum and Brunch. 9:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 13

Pre-School Story Hour: TBE. With Wendy Holden for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. 10 a.m.

Talmud Study: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 14

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

"Medicine and Morals: Your Jewish Guide Through Life's Tough Decisions:" Jewish Learning Institute. Fall semester course. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *See December 7.*

Calendar

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 15

Pre-School Story Hour: TBE. With Wendy Holden for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. 10 a.m.

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Baking Discussion Group: BIC Women's League. 4:30 p.m.

Thursday 16

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

Question Session and Discussion: JCC Seniors. Allison Pollock, JFS Geriatric Social Worker, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance at 12:30 p.m. Then learn about "Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg," the humorous and eye-opening story of Gertrude Berg who was the creator, principal writer, and star of *The Goldbergs,* a popular radio show for 17 years, which became television's first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. 1 p.m.

Dinner: TBE Sisterhood. DAMES. Dinner in appreciation of members of TBE Sisterhood. 6 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 17

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Tot Shabbat, Tot and S2 Dinner: TBE. Tot Shabbat service at 5:30 p.m. and Tot & S2 dinner at 6 p.m.

Sukkat Shalom and Shira: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Adult Shabbat Dinner: TBE Brotherhood. BBQ. $10/adults; $5/children 12 and under. Reserve by calling 665-4744. 6 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 18

Torah Study: TBE. With Rabi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Followed by Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson at 9:30 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 9 a.m.

Sweatshirt Shabbat: BIC. Followed by Cholent Kiddush in honor of Nikki Klein. 9:30 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 19

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 20

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing*.

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. On days when HDS or AAPS schools are closed but the JCC is open, the JCC Youth Department offers full day programs featuring field trips or special activities. Programs are for JCC members only in grades K-5. Middle School students may participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Students may sign up for one or more days. Programing details for each day will be available early December. $36/day for 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($4 off for additional siblings). $10/day for PM Care, if needed. No PM Care charge for Kids' Konnection/Kids' Club students enrolled that day of the week. *Available December 20–23 and 27–30.*

Women's Torah Study: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose using "Women of Reform Judaism" Torah commentary. This week's portion is *Sh'mot.* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 21

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 20.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

"Medicine and Morals: Your Jewish Guide Through Life's Tough Decisions:" Jewish Learning Institute. Fall semester course. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *See December 7.*

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Viewing of *Crimes and Misdemeanors,* a Woody Allen classic that follows the lives of two New York City Jews who are both going through separate moral life crises. 1 p.m.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 22

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 20.*

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Includes learning, lively discussion, and a bit of fun. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman at rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 23

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 20.*

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Enjoy an hour of wisdom and humor with Rabbi Robert Levy of Temple Beth Emeth. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 24

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Service: TBE. In the Chapel at 6 p.m.

Erev Shabbat Service and Dinner: BIC. Service and Chinese Dinner at House of Israel Kaifung. 7 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 25

Torah Study: TBE. With Rabi Levy. Drop-in discussion of weekly Torah portion. No preparation necessary. 8:50 a.m. Followed by Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson at 9:30 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Chinese Food and a Movie: TBE. Dinner at Asia City restaurant on Washtenaw Avenue, followed by a choice of movie at the Rave Movies on Carpenter Road. Details at www.templebethemeth.org or call the office to reserve at 665-4744.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 26

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Theater Outing: Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Annual event to see *Sonia Flew* at the Jewish Ensemble Theater, with an afterglow to meet the actors. For information, phone (248) 432-5517 or visit www.michjewishhistory.org. 2 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 27

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 20.*

Tuesday 28

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 20.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

"Medicine and Morals: Your Jewish Guide Through Life's Tough Decisions": Jewish Learning Institute. Fall semester course. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *See December 7.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). All ages and levels welcome including U-M and non-U-M participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 29

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 20.*

Thursday 30

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 20.*

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

New Year's Celebration: JCC Seniors. Celebration with entertainment by a local musician at 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 31

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Service: TBE. 6 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar*

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January 2011

Saturday 1

Torah Study and Morning Minyan: TBE. With Rabi Levy. Drop-in discussion of weekly Torah portion. No preparation necessary. 8:50 a.m. Followed by Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson at 9:30 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 2

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 3

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Women's Torah Study: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose using the "Women of Reform Judaism" Torah commentary. This week's portion is *Bo.* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 4

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See December 20.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

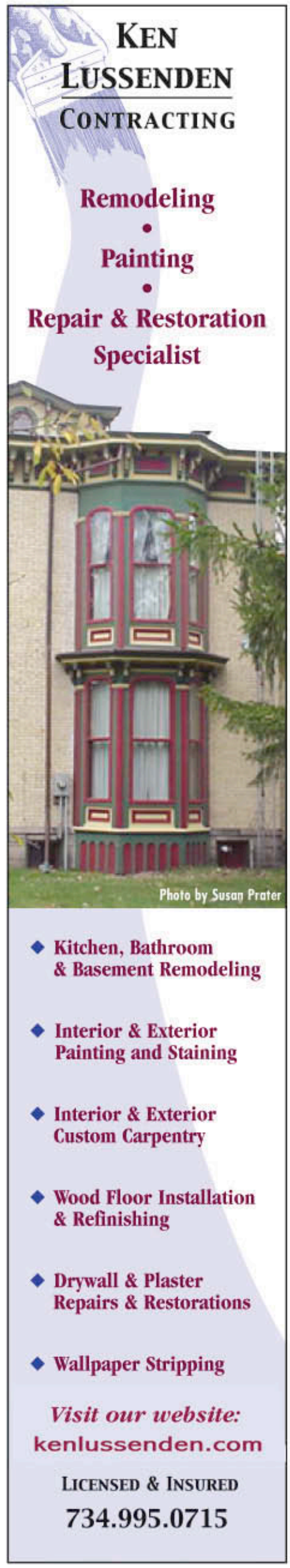
Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

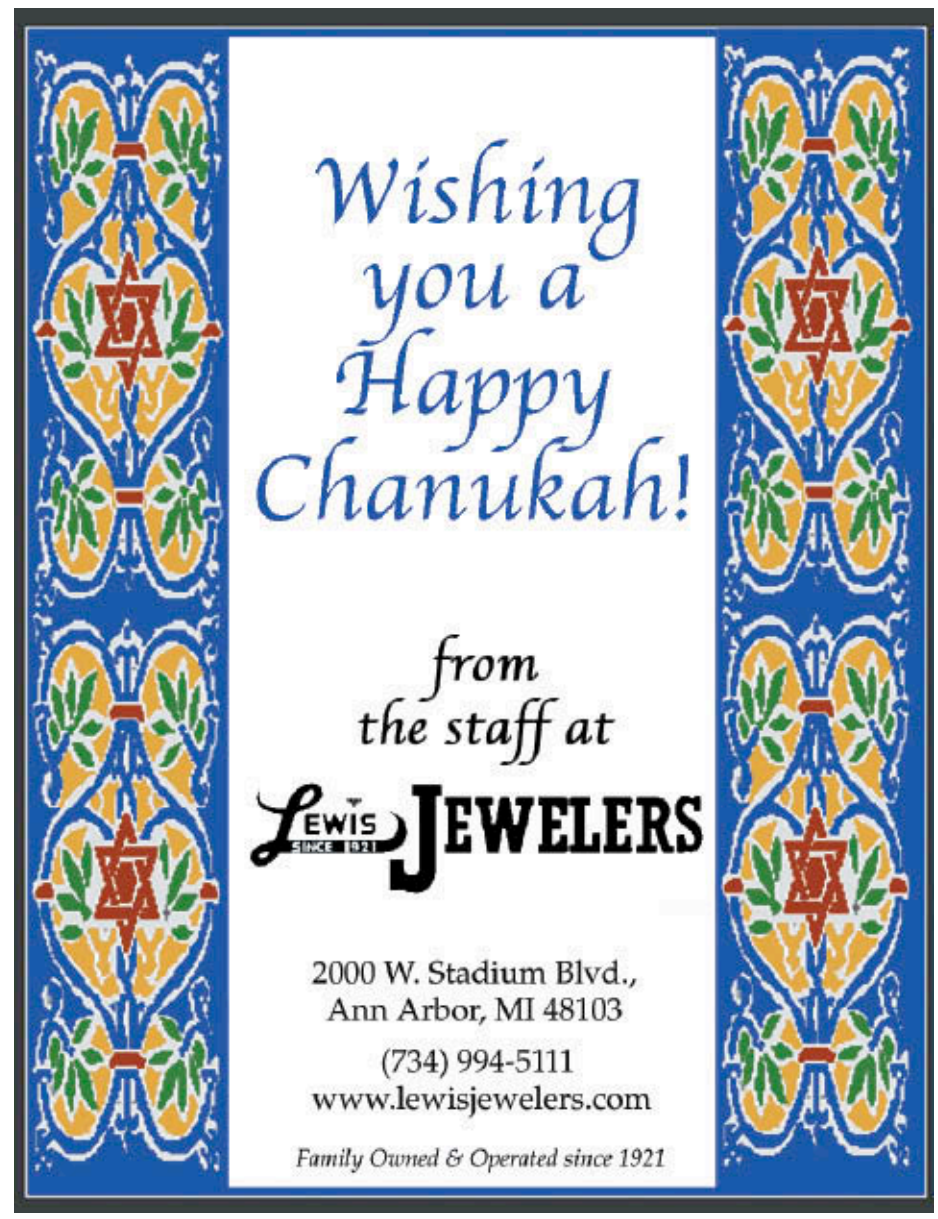
Spirituality Book Club: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. This month's selection is *Our Dance with God,* by Rabbi Karen Kedar. 7:30 p.m.

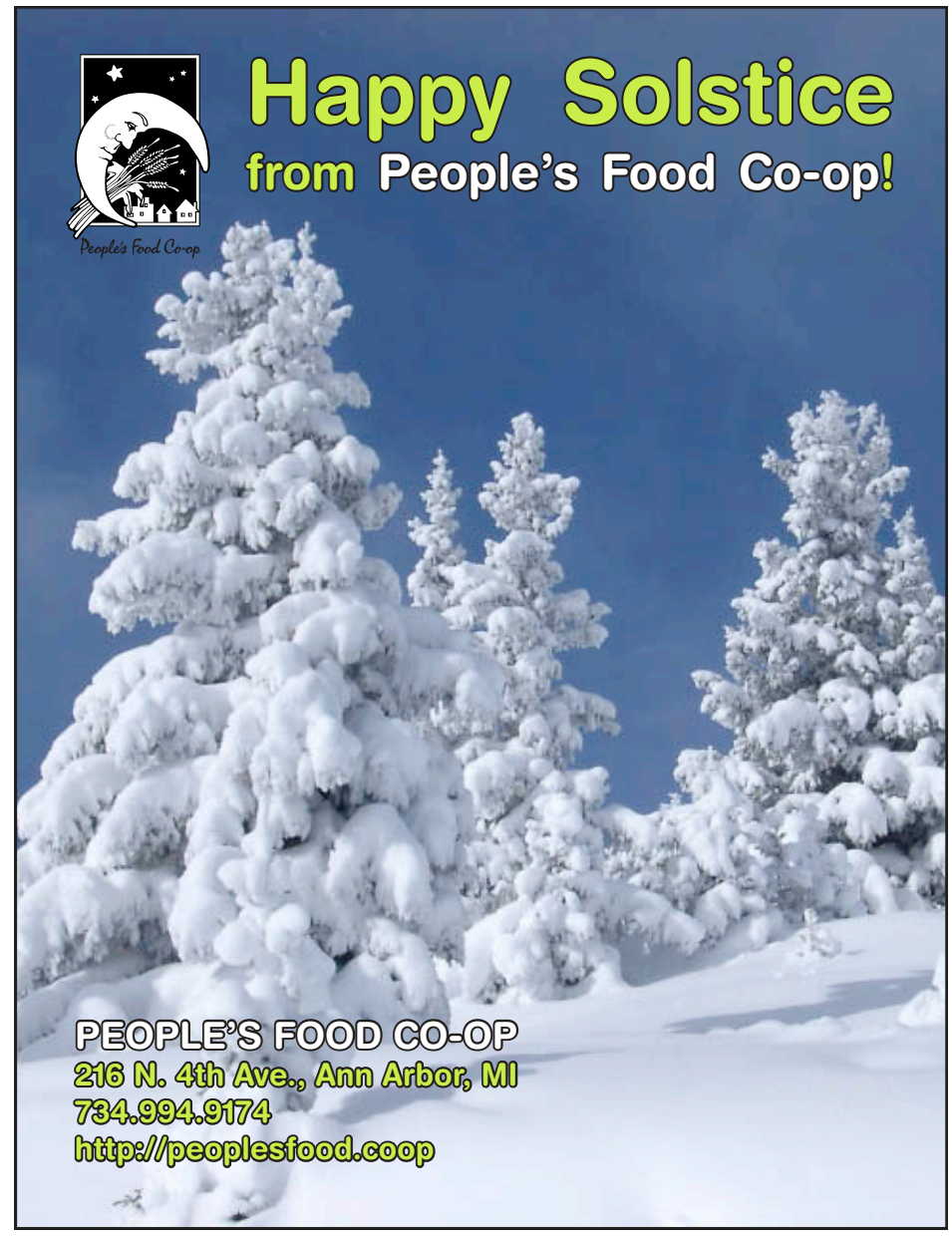
Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

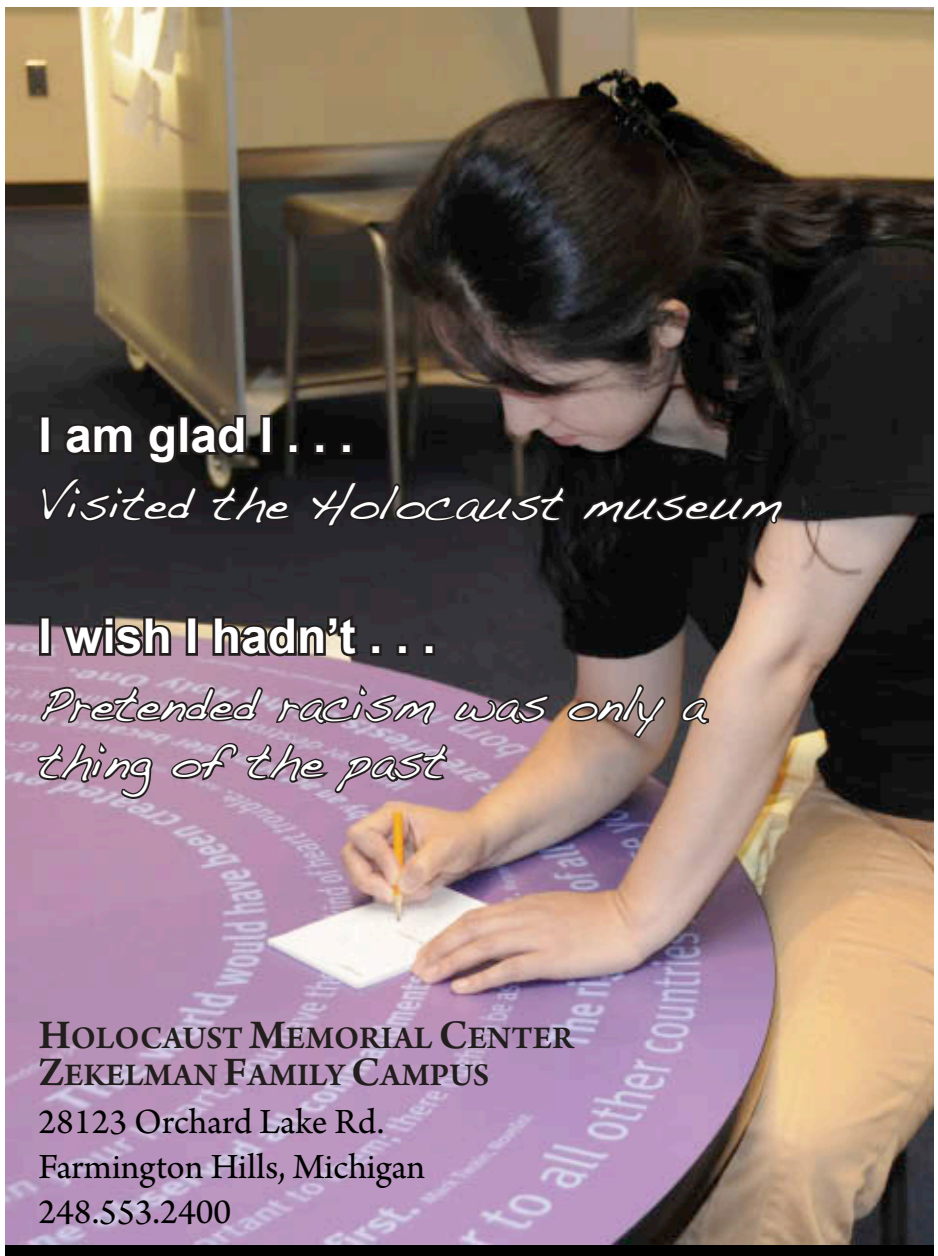
Wednesday 5

Music Appreciation Class: JCC and WCC Community Education. "French Music of the Romantic Era," with Nate Adam. Free to all Washtenaw County residents 65 and over. Register at 971-0990 or at the first class. 9:30–11:30 a.m.









A Day in the Warsaw Ghetto
A Birthday Trip in Hell

יום בגיטו וארשה
19.9.41

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER • ZACHOR • REMEMBER •

Sunday, December 12, 2010 to Sunday, March 13, 2011
www.holocaustcenter.org • facebook.com/HMCZFC

Calendar

Thursday 6

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, Noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. This month's selection is *Our Dance with God,* by Rabbi Karen Kedar. Noon.

Birthdays and Presentation: JCC Seniors. Celebration for all with January birthdays. Family and friends invited for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. Stephanie Murray of annarbor.com will present, "A History of the News Media" at 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 7

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Tot Shabbat: TBE. 5:30 p.m.

Tot & S2 Dinner: TBE. Dinner for tots and S2 at 6 p.m.

Sukkat Shalom and Shira: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of tcalendar.*

Saturday 8

Torah Study: TBE. With Rabbi Levy. No preparation necessary. 8:50 a.m.

Saturday Morning Minyan: TBE. With Rabbi Lisa Delson. 9:30 a.m.

New Mini Minyan: BIC. For K-2nd Graders. 11 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat: BIC. For 3rd–5th Graders. 11 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 9

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 10

Pre-School Story Hour: TBE. With Wendy Holden for children ages 3–5 and their caregivers. 10 a.m.

Afterschool Enrichment Classes Begin: JCC Youth. For information, visit www.jccannarbor.org, contact deborahhuerta@jccfed.org, or phone 971-0990.

Talmud Study: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 11

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 12

Music Appreciation Class: JCC and WCC Community Education. "French Music of the Romantic Era," with Nate Adam. Free to all Washtenaw County residents 65 and over. Register at 971-0990 or at the first class on January 5. 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Includes learning, lively discussion, and a bit of fun. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman at rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net. 7:30 p.m.

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Thursday 13

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors: A nurse from Care Response will monitor blood pressures at 12:30 p.m. followed by a performance by The Happiness Boys who will return to the JCC for their version of Tin Pan Alley at 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 14

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Tot Shabbat: TBE. 5:30 p.m.

Tot & S2 Dinner: TBE. Dinner for tots and S2 at 6 p.m.

Sukkat Shalom and Shira: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Middle School Service: TBE. Once a month service led by middle schoolers and followed by a separate oneg shabbat. 7:30 p.m.

Sisterhood Shabbat: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Thai Shabbat Dinner: TBE Twenties and Thirties. Meet for a delicious Thai Shabbat Dinner at Tuptim Restaurant, 4896 Washtenaw Avenue. Couples and singles welcome. RSVP to Brett Willner at bwillner@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744. 6 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 15

Torah Study: TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 9 a.m.

Morning Minyan: TBE. Led by Rabbi Delson at 9:30 a.m.

Shabbat Torah Study: TBE. Learn with Rabbi David Aaron, professor of Bible at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, which is located in Cincinnati. Rabbi Aaron is a visiting scholar with the UM Frankel Center. For information, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. 9:30 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 16

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, plus an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tot Storytime: BIC. In the Children's Library. 9:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 17

MLK Day Performance and School's Out Day: JCC Youth. Free community performance by Singers Of United Lands in the afternoon open to the entire community and all-day School's Out program for JCC members only from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. for grades K–5; middle school students may also participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Cost for School's Out day is $36/day for 8 a.m.–4 p.m. and $10 additional for 4–6 p.m. RSVP for the performance and registration for School's Out day requested by January 12. For information, visit www.jccannarbor.org, email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org, or phone 971-0990.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose using the "Women of Reform Judaism" Torah commentary. This week's portion will be *Yitro.* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 18

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Viewing of *Lost Embrace (El Abrazo Partido)*, an Argentinian comedy-drama telling the story of a young Jewish shop owner whose grandparents are Polish Holocaust survivors. 1 p.m.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group). All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 19

Music Appreciation Class: JCC and WCC Community Education. "French Music of the Romantic Era," with Nate Adam. Free to all Washtenaw County residents 65 and over. Register at 971-0990 or at the first class. 9:30–11:30 a.m. *See January 5.*

Tot Tu B'Shevat Dinner and Seder: BIC. 5:30 p.m.

Tu B'Shevat Seder: Chabad. Full Tu B'Shevat Seder in honor of Jewish Arbor Day. Enjoy special foods and drinks from Israel, a study session on the meaning of the day, and the Jewish perspective on ecology. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 20

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

Question Session and Tu B'Shevat Seder: JCC Seniors. Allison Pollock, JFS Geriatric Social Worker, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance at 12:30 p.m. Celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the day on the Jewish calendar that celebrates "The New Year for Trees," with a special seder facilitated by Julie Gales, at 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 21

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Tot Shabbat: TBE. 5:30 p.m.

Tot & S2 Dinner: TBE. Dinner for tots and S2 at 6 p.m.

Sukkat Shalom and Shira: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. With Kol Halev. 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 22

Torah Study: TBE. With Rabi Levy at 8:50 a.m.

Morning Minyan: TBE. With Rabbi Delson at 9:30 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Annual Quiz Night: BIC. 7 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Kids' Night Out: JCC Youth. Featuring games, crafts, dinner, and a movie. Participants will take part in a telent show and enjoy viewing the movie *Shrek Forever After.* Kids' Night Out events are open to JCC members and non-members in grades K—5. $20/members ($18/siblings), $25/non-members ($23/siblings). Registration due January 20. For information, visit www.jccannarbor.org, email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org, or phone 971-0990.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar*

Sunday 23

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Beth Israel Café: BIC Women's League. 9:30 a.m.

Tu B'Shevat Celebration: JCS. Celebration of trees, wildlife and the environment at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road. Local environmental groups will offer information about conservation and sustainability. Activities for the whole family including a scavenger hunt for kids. For information, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Celebrating Harmony: An Afternoon of Music: JFS. Honoring Barry Nemon, M.D. and Barbara Stark-Nemon. Kensington Court Hotel. For information or to register, contact Jennifer Arapoff at 769-0209 or visit www.jfsannarbor.org.

All Ensemble Concert: TBE. One-hour concert with the Youth Choir, Middle School Shir Chadash, High School Shir Chadash, and Kol Halev. 4 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 24

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

"Veshamru B'nai Yisrael et HaShabbat": BIC. "The Children of Israel Shall Keep the Shabbat," led by Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 25

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 26

Music Appreciation Class: JCC and WCC Community Education. "French Music of the Romantic Era," with Nate Adam. Free to all Washtenaw County residents 65 and over. Register at 971-0990 or at the first class. 9:30–11:30 a.m. *See January 5.*

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Includes learning, lively discussion, and a bit of fun. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman at rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 27

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Holocaust Commemoration: JCC Seniors. JCC program to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 28

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Tot Shabbat: TBE. 5:30 p.m.

Tot & S2 Dinner: TBE. Dinner for tots and S2 at 6 p.m.

Friday Night Lights: BIC. Kabbalat Shabbat Service followed by a family friendly Shabbat Dinner. 6 p.m.

Sukkat Shalom and Shira: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 29

Jewish Parenting Workshop: TBE. "The Blessing of Food: Jewish and Nutritional Perspectives on Bringing Moderation, Celebration, and Appreciation to Your Family's Table." Facilitated by Kathy Rhodes, PhD and Terri Ginsburg. 8:30 a.m. (10:45 a.m. during religious school).

Torah Study: TBE. With Rabi Levy. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 9 a.m.

Morning Minyan : TBE. With Rabbi Delson at 9:30 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 30

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah

reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Party Expo: JCC–Cultural Arts and Education. For community members who will be having Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings, Graduations or any other special event. Special events vendors such as florists, balloon artists, event planners, caterers, photographers, decorators, and entertainment companies are invited to participate for $36 per table. Contact Mimi Weisberg at 971-0990 or email mimiweisberg@jccfed.org for information. 2–5 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday*

Monday 31

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Beit Café Adult Education Night: TBE. Participants may choose two of four classes to attend, with an Italian themed refreshment break around 8 p.m. Attendees may come for one hour or two. For information, check www.templebethemeth.org or contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. 7–9 p.m.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Sukkat Shalom service at 6:30 p.m. for "tot grads," preceded by dinner. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Oneg for Tot and Sukkat Shalom families at 7 p.m. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Phone numbers and addresses

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

December 3	*4:45 p.m.*
December 10	*4:45 p.m.*
December 17	*4:46 p.m.*
December 24	*4:49 p.m.*
December 31	*4:54 p.m.*
January 7	*5:01 p.m.*
January 14	*5:08 p.m.*
January 21	*5:16 p.m.*
January 28	*5:25 p.m.*

Breast cancer, continued from page 25

of medical genetics—as well as the Israel Cancer Association-funded Genetics Consortium Project—is working to evaluate the risk level that carriers of BRCA1 and BRCA2 have of developing breast and ovarian cancer. Levy-Lahad found, for example, that a specific minor genetic change in another gene greatly increases the risk of those with BRCA2 developing the disease.

Israel's health funds provide free testing for the BRCA gene among those with a family history of breast cancer.

For Jennifer Griffin, 40, a Fox News correspondent who spent seven years based in Jerusalem, the research in Israel is personal. Diagnosed a year ago with triple negative breast cancer, a particularly aggressive strain of the disease that tends to attack younger women, she returned to Jerusalem last week as an ambassador for the Komen Foundation.

"The answer to it probably lies somewhere here because there is such a strong community affected here and more scientists are working on it," Griffin said of triple negative breast cancer, which though rare is more common among Ashkenazim who have the BRCA1 gene.

"The more funds Komen can funnel here," she said, "the more progress can also be made worldwide." ■

Chanukah app-ticipation

By Mark Mietkiewicz

Chanukah is quickly approaching but if you can't wait and want a quick holiday fix, just head over to the Apple iTunes store. You'll find an assortment of free and low cost apps for your iPhone and iPod Touch to put you in the holiday mood.

Menorah is not only free, it's great. You can choose to read the Chanukah blessings in Hebrew, English or transliterated into English script. And if your Hebrew is rusty, you can listen to all the blessings as well as *Maoz Tsur*. And during the holiday, the animation will show you which direction to light the candles. [http://bit.ly/chapp1]

Mobile Menorah (99¢) lets you light the candles yourself - and makes sure you to do so in the right order. You can choose how many candles to light and even "select the desired candle burn time." [http://bit.ly/chapp21]

Chanuka Guide (free) has a great deal of valuable information about the holiday including its history, customs, stories, essays and even some humor. Unfortunately, I can't give it a complete thumbs-up because I found the interface confusing. To get the most out of the Guide, you will need spend a few minutes learning how to maneuver through this. [http://bit.ly/chapp25]

History of Hanukkah (99¢) does a good job if you really need the info at your fingertips. But I suggest that you save your money and just do a simple search online. You'll find much more comprehensive information that's free. [http://bit.ly/chapp26]

Where would Chanukah be without its games? If you don't happen to have a real dreidel around, **Dreidel, Dredel, Dradel** (free) can come in handy. Double-tap on the screen to watch the virtual dreidel spin and eventually stop. You'll have to keep track of your bets and who's winning and losing manually. (And yes, that IS how it is this app is spelled.) [http://bit.ly/chapp16]

Dreidel Dreidel Dreidel ($1.99) gives you another version of the game (along with more consistent spelling.) Sure the game works fine but I am perplexed by a game that has a dreidel spinning and landing on sheets of MATZOS! [http://bit.ly/chapp27] I did do a double-take when I saw the oh so serious warning in the iTunes store: "Rated 12+ for the following: Frequent/Intense Simulated Gambling."

Save your money for **Super Dreidel** (99¢). Finally, a game that lets you select the number of players (up to eight), enter their names, choose how much money you want in your bank and keeps score too. You can even select variations of the game including: Traditional, Vegas and Turbo. (My only gripe is that some of the Hebrew letters are printed backwards on the dreidel!) [http://bit.ly/chapp28]

Dreidel tap (free) doesn't really have anything to do with Chanukah but that doesn't mean it's not fun. You are presented with an assortment of dreidels careening around the screen. Your goal is to tap them as quickly as possible without hitting any of the floating burning candles. [http://bit.ly/chapp29]

I found **Hanukkah Match** (free) even more addictive. In the manner of the old Concentration memory game, you tap on the screen and are presented a glimpse of symbols of the holiday (menorahs, gelt, latkes, etc.) Your goal is remember where each symbol is and match it up to its twin as quickly as possible. [http://bit.ly/chapp30]

Almost all the apps that I came across were designed for iPhone and iPod Touch. But if you happen to have an Android-based phone, you're in luck. **Happy Chanukah** (free) lets you "light" the candles on the go. [http://bit.ly/chapp13]

Although many Apple apps cost only 99¢, sometimes I felt even that low price was way too steep. For example, do I REALLY need an app like **Hanukkah Gift Tracker** just so I can write down all the Chanukah gifts that I have received? [http://bit.ly/chapp11] And although I'm sure that **Days to Hanukkah** does precisely what it sets out to do, I think I'll save the buck and check out my calendar. [http://bit.ly/chapp12] ■

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

Pro-Israel website resource for students launched

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—A pro-Israel grouphas launched a website to help students counter anti-Israel activism on campus.

StandWithUs's password-protected site can be found at http://www.standwithus.com/divestment. It will provide tools for students looking to counter boycott and divestment campaigns at their schools.

Students who fought divestment resolutions in the past academic year at the University of California campuses in Berkeley and San Diego helped develop the site. Similar resolutions were introduced at a number of colleges and universities during the past academic year.

The site provides general support, as well as outlines specific steps and strategies that students can use to head off or defeat divestment resolutions. It also offers T-shirts with slogans, posters and other publicity materials for pro-Israel campaigns, and access to a hot line to the StandWithUs office so students can strategize directly with the group's leadership.

Students have to fill out a form for access to the site; StandWithUs staffers will vet applicants.

The site joins other new resources for pro-Israel students facing what many in the Jewish community fear will be a surge in anti-Israel activism on North American campuses this academic year.

Vitals

Mazel Tov

Jeffrey Ohl on his bar mitzvah, December 4.
Rachel Frank on her bat mitzvah, December 4.
Nathaniel Holden on his bar mitzvah, January 8.
Joshua Nacht on his bar mitzvah, January 8.
Kathryn Schwartz on her bat mitzvah on January 15.
Lynn and Jeff Dils on the engagement of their son, Sooner Brooks-Heath, to Jenny Lawton.

Condolences

Amy Multack on the death of her father, Marvin N. Zandberg, September 12.
Andrew Greifer on the death of his father, Elisha Greifer, September 29.
Bruce Moyer on the death of his mother, Carol Moyer, October 11.
Paul Perlman on the death of his mother, Esther Perlman, November 14.
Monica Schteingart on the death of her mother, Rachel Starkman.

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Herbert Amster: a Jewish leader remembered

Phyllis Herzig, president, Jewish Family Services board of directors, special to WJN

If you ask ten people who knew Herbert Amster to describe him, they will inevitably all say the same thing: Herb had a unique and endearing way of making you feel like the center of the universe. His altruistic nature and compassionate personality crossed over into every aspect of his multifaceted life—including his instrumental role in the founding of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Center in Washtenaw County.

Herbert Amster

Herb Amster's passing in October left an irreplaceable chasm in the community—both the Jewish community and the Ann Arbor area community. Serving on the Jewish Family Services board from 2004-2010, Herb provided business acumen, leadership and insight into the local nonprofit and for-profit world. As a highly respected entrepreneur (he was a founder and executive officer of Irwin Magnetic Systems Inc., played a key role in the success of Sycor Inc. and has served on the boards of directors of several major companies in the area, including NanoBio Corp. and ReCellular Inc.), he was a touchstone for JFS board members, staff and clients. Perhaps most importantly, he and his wife Carol provided indispensable friendship to everyone at JFS.

His passing leaves the world a better place than before he came into it, and our clients have benefitted from his generosity and talents for many years.

Herb was active, vital and impactful right up to the end of his life. He was just recently chosen to receive the University of Michigan's Doan Award for Outstanding Leadership in Entrepreneurship and Innovation on October 3, at the technology transfer office's Celebrate Invention event. At 75, he was still learning, teaching and growing as a human being. These are the attributes that have served our client base so well over the years.

We are all so very appreciative of Herb's support, guidance, enthusiasm, and friendship. Individually and collectively, we all have "Herb stories" of the impact he had on our lives and on JFS. He taught us so much by his words and deeds; it is now up to each of us to try to follow his fine example.

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